

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON

THE JOURNAL

March 14, 2003

50 cents (tax included)

Inside Police say bogus flower deliveries could be identity theft scam [A2]
Arts The Black Brothers sing the old songs of Ireland for St. Patrick's Day [C3]

GAUCHOS HOLD ON



ALBANY HIGH School's Jerryck Owens-Murrey guards the ball from Northgate High's Ryan Clark during the North Coast Section game in Berkeley on Saturday. The Gauchos came away with a 43-42 win to advance as the No. 4 seed in the Northern Regional Division III championship, where they posted a 57-53 win over Burlingame High School in the first round. For game see Sports, page C1.

Teachers bracing for layoff slips

■ Albany just one of many districts sending notices in wake of state budget crisis

By Kara Shire

STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — School district officials are expecting a \$500,000 budget shortfall next school year, a grim prediction that triggered 60 layoff warnings to teachers and administrators this week.

It is unlikely all 58 teachers and two administrators who received notices will lose their jobs. But as a precaution, district officials handed out pink slips to nearly a quarter of the teaching staff.

"What we hope is that the state cuts won't be that bad and most of these cuts are unnecessary," said school board President Miriam Walden.

According to state law, districts must alert teachers who may be laid off by Saturday.

As a result, school districts up and down the state are doing out thousands of pink slips while knowing little about how deep state education cuts ultimately will be.

The Alcalanes, West Contra Costa, Oakland and Berkeley districts also are handing out layoff warnings.

West Contra Costa Unified School District sent notices this week to 48 percent of its teaching staff. In Oakland, some 1,056 teachers will get word this week that they could be laid off. Any actual layoffs must be made by May 15.

"It's important for people to realize that nobody that I know on the school board is defending this process," Walden said.

"It's a horrible process. It's horrible for the teachers who have to go through all this uncertainty, and it's horrible for our schools who can't afford to lose anyone."

Albany school board members have not yet decided which programs would be affected by the possible budget reductions. Cuts to classified staff, such as custodians and school clerks, also are possible but do not require the same notice period.

Reach Kara Shire at 510-262-2798 or kshire@cctimes.com.

News station scopes out potential stories

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Residents the diversity of events in the city during conducted recently by a news station.

Listeners, a community program of KGO-TV news, came to El Cerrito Wednesday to hear ideas about stories that featured on the station.

28 people spoke at the held at the city's center and moderated by news director Kevin Keehan. About 50 people, including City Council members attended.

The ideas at the meeting were diverse, ranging from city problems, to school-related issues and inspirational stories.

Several residents mentioned the city's creeks and the environment.

Apple Szostak pointed to the recent acquisition of a piece of

land by the city with the help of a community group on the northeast side of San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito that will be turned into a park. A workshop on what the park should look like will be held May 3, she said.

Deborah DiFruscia of the Friends of El Cerrito Trees, said the group is having a tree-planting party on March 22 on Richmond Street. The group hopes the city can have more money for planting trees or replacing cut trees, she said.

Joann Steck-Bayat brought up El Cerrito's community events, including its annual Relay for Life walk-a-thon, which raises thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Society, as well as the city's long-running Mar-

tin Luther King Junior Parade and Earth Day Celebrations.

Beth O'Keefe pointed out the city's Neighborhood Emergency Assistance Team, which helps neighbors get to know each other while preparing for calamities.

"In an urban environment, we have established a sense of community, which is extremely important," O'Keefe said.

Jim Montgomery brought up the city's Crime Prevention Committee, which sponsors anti-crime prevention programs for adults and children and home-security inspections, among other programs.

Several residents brought up school and children: One man

See NEWS, Page A8

Civic center high on El Cerrito wish list

■ In setting its priorities the City Council also wants to focus on San Pablo Ave.

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — A new civic center, continued San Pablo Avenue redevelopment efforts and more communication with city staff are top priorities for the City Council.

The council met to set goals on Saturday, March 8, as it does annually. Goal-setting meetings are intended to focus on the future, not on solving current

problems. Facilitator Royleen White kept the meeting on track, writing ideas and suggestions on large sheets of paper.

Councilmembers reiterated their desire for the city to work on building a new civic center. The current El Cerrito City Hall has been in trailers at Manila and San Pablo avenues for more than a decade.

The council will discuss civic center conceptual site plans and possible funding sources at its regular April 7 meeting, said City Manager Scott Hannan.

See GOALS, Page A6

W generation carries step dancing tradition

By Martin Snapp

STAFF WRITER

(an ancient Gaelic word pronounced "Any-a") is a 9-year-old girl who is among those spearheading expansion in traditional dancing, and her cohorts — Carrie Bergen, 10, and Jamie, 7, of Berkeley; Polly, 10, of Richmond; and Oakley Clapp, 10, Emily, 9, Annie Woelffer, 10, Robert Chappelle, 8, and Erin and Colleen McPherson, 7, respectively — and the East and North teams and practice the intricate steps and jumps.

Young 'uns' are nimble and grace

would make the Lord of the Dance himself green with Celtic pride, if not envy.

And their teacher, Annie McBride, can pinpoint the exact moment this explosion took off: March 17, 1994, the day "Riverdance" first appeared on television and took the dancing world by storm.

Before and after

"Everything is either 'before Riverdance' or 'after Riverdance,'" she says in a lilting brogue. "Before, I'd be lucky to get a couple of hundred people at our annual feis ('fesh,' Gaelic for dancing festival). Now I get more than 1,200. And the overwhelming majority are young 'uns.'

See STEP, Page A8



IRISH STEP-DANCERS at the McBride School in the Glenview Center for the Performing Arts prepare for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day performance at the El Cerrito Eagles Club.

Two new police staffers to help process records

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The City Council has given the police the option of hiring two extra people to help process records, in part because reported crimes and other police calls have increased.

The six-person records staff also is down because two employees have left temporarily. So Police Chief Scott Kirkland had requested the "overhiring" of two positions. The records department keeps track of police reports, arrests, property, evidence and more.

The City Council authorized Kirkland's request March 3 to begin the months-long hiring

See POLICE, Page A7

INSIDE

Library column

■ A librarian muses on the importance of Mr. Rogers' calming influence. Page A5

Schools column

■ Great education can happen when older students teach young ones. Page A5



Martin Snapp

■ Haiku in Berkeley, an update on Walker's Gina Niemeier, and more. Page A3

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INFORMATION FOR LIFE

IN BRIEF

Albany

Cal coach is parade's grand marshal

The 48th Annual Opening Day Youth Baseball Parade will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 29 on Solano Avenue. The parade's grand marshal will be former UC Berkeley baseball coach Bob Milano, the most winning coach in the history of the team.

Accompanying Youth Baseball's Opening Day Parade will be The California Repercussions, a world-famous marching band playing traditional band music and rock 'n' roll.

For more information, call 510-525-1771.

Stories and more featured at Toddler Time

Registration is open for Toddler Time at the Albany Library. Children 18 months to 3 years with an accompanying adult are invited to a program of stories, fingerplays and songs. The program begins March 13 and continues through the end of April. For registration and information contact the Library's Children's Desk at 526-3720, ext. 6.

Preschool Storytimes continues on Saturday mornings in March and April at 11 a.m. at the Albany Library. Children 3 - 6 years are welcome to a program of stories and films. No registration required. For more details contact the Children's Desk at 526-3720, ext. 6.

Baseball program holds a fund-raiser

The Albany High School Baseball Boosters are sponsoring the Cougar Golf Classic, a fund-raising event to benefit the Albany High School Baseball Program on Sunday, April 27, at the Tilden Park Public Golf Course. Golfers of various levels are welcome. The Cougar Golf Classic will use a Scramble format, and golfers will play best ball. The cost is \$125 per golfer. Price includes green fees, cart, prizes and dinner. Early registration is encouraged to secure space.

For information, call 510-525-2608, or e-mail Golf4AHSBaseball@aol.com. Checks payable to AHS Baseball Boosters can be sent to: Cougar Golf Classic C/O P.O. Box 6007, Albany, CA 94706.

Berkeley

Screening benefits humanitarian curriculum

"From Swastika to Jim Crow," a documentary about Jewish refugees who taught at America's black colleges, will be shown from 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday, March 22, at St. John's Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 2727 College Ave. Tickets are \$10 to \$20. The screening benefits the humanitarian curriculum of Community School of the East Bay, an independent middle school in Berkeley. For more information, call 510-649-0505.

El Cerrito

Parks and rec will pick up regional award

The city's parks and recreation department will receive an award of excellence from the California Park & Recreation Society during a conference next week.

For its Senior Access Technology program at the Open House Senior Center, the department was recognized in a category that covers recreation, community services, personal development and health and wellness for cities of comparable size.

As an award-winning agency, the parks and recreation department has been invited to participate in a "Best of the Best" educational session at the conference, which will be held March 19-22 in San Jose. The Senior Access Technology program coordinator is Janet Bilbas. For information on the program, call 510-215-4340.

Madera gets historical for fund-raiser

"Medieval Madness" is the theme for Madera Elementary School's biggest fund-raiser of the year: the annual Madera Auction to be held from 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 5, at Mira Vista Country Club.

The auction is a chance to bid on services and products from supporting merchants across the Bay Area, from Solano Avenue restaurants to the San Francisco Opera, a week in Hawaii, tickets to Giants and Cal games, and ski packages at Sierra at Tahoe. Bids start at half the retail value, and all proceeds directly benefit the enrichment programs that are unique to Madera, from computer lab to vocal music to science.

Tickets are \$20 (\$25 at the door) and cover complimentary wine and beer, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and homemade dessert. To order tickets, send a check made out to Madera PTA, care of Madera Elementary, 8500 Madera Drive, El Cerrito.

Fairmont schedules kindergarten intro

Fairmont Elementary School will hold kindergarten tours from 8:30 to 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 18. Coffee and refreshments will be served at 8:30 a.m. followed by an introduction by the principal at 8:45 a.m. A tour of the kindergarten classrooms and school facilities will be held from 9 to 9:45 a.m. followed by a question and answer session from 9:45 to 10 a.m. The school is located at 724 Kearney St. To make a reservation, call 510-525-5235.

Demos will hear about "rogue states"

The El Cerrito Democratic Club's March meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25th, 7:30 P.M. at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. The meeting room is at the back of the church on the parking lot level.

The speaker will be Nathan Britton, the Northern California political director for California Peace Action. He will address the war on terrorism, the military budget, dealing with "rogue states" and national security.

DIMENSIONS OF THE UC BERKELEY 2020 LRDP

UC Berkeley invites you to attend either of two public information sessions in March, presenting the scope and key issues for our 2020 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP).

DATES & VENUES

Monday March 10, 2003
7:00 to 9:00 PM
Krulich Theater

Clark Kerr Campus
2602 Warring St, Berkeley

Thursday March 13, 2003
7:00 to 9:00 PM
North Berkeley

Senior Center
1901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley

RESOURCES

Strategic Academic Plan
<http://spc.vcf.berkeley.edu/document/academicstrategicplan.pdf>

New Century Plan
<http://www.cc.berkeley.edu/econimpact>

Economic Impact Study
<http://www.berkeley.edu/econimpact>

City of Berkeley General Plan
<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/planning/advance/generalplan/intro.html>

UC CONTACTS

Kerry O'Banion
LRDP Project Director
koboration@cp.berkeley.edu

Jennifer Lawrence
Environmental Programs Mgr
jlawrence@cp.berkeley.edu

ALBANY POLICE

Monday, March 3

- **ROBBERY** — An Albany boy reported that he was robbed while on the 600 block of Key Route Boulevard and was able to identify the thief. Officers contacted and arrested a 14-year-old Albany boy for the assault.
- **VEHICLE VANDALISM** — Vandals smashed the rear window of a silver Subaru Forester parked on the 700 block of Carmel Avenue.
- **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — Shortly before midnight Officers stopped a blue '88 Ford Escort on the 1000 block of Eastshore Highway for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 29-year-old San Francisco man for an outstanding warrant, and towed the vehicle.

Tuesday, March 4

- **DUI** — At about 2:30 a.m. Officers stopped a white '90 Dodge van near Masonic Avenue and Dartmouth Street for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 39-year-old Berkeley man, was found to be intoxicated. He was arrested.
- **VEHICLE THEFT** — During the night thieves stole a green '98 Honda Civic that was parked on the 1000 block of Neilson Street.
- **MAILBOX BREAK-IN** — A resident on the 400 block of Stannage Avenue reported her mailbox was burglarized.
- **HIT AND RUN** — At about 3:30 p.m. an Albany resident reported that a male driver in a silver '90 Nissan Pathfinder had just hit a car parked on the 1000 block of Santa Fe Avenue and had fled the scene. The resident was able to give officers a description and the car license number. At about 5 p.m. that day officers located the driver, a 22-year-old Albany man, on the 600 block of Masonic Avenue. He was arrested for hit-and-run.

Wednesday, March 5

EL CERRITO POLICE

Thursday, Feb. 27

- **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — The stereo was taken from a vehicle on the 10200 block of San Pablo Avenue between Feb. 27 and the next day. The vehicle's window was smashed.

Saturday, March 1

- **THEFT** — It was reported at 7:45 a.m. that a woman's ex-boyfriend forcibly stole the woman's purse, which contained \$200, on the 5200 block of Potrero Avenue. The man also grabbed the woman around the neck and bit her cheek.
- **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — A stereo was taken from a vehicle on the 500 block of Colusa Avenue between 10 p.m. on Feb. 28 and 2:15 p.m. on March 1.
- **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1985 Toyota Camry was stolen from the 5900 block of San Diego Street between 10:45 p.m. on March 1 and 10 a.m. the next day.
- **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1987 Toyota Camry was stolen from the 7200 block of Stockton Avenue sometime between 6:45 and 7:45 p.m.
- **BURGLARY** — A leaf blower and power washer worth a total of \$500 were stolen from a storage shed at El Cerrito Plaza between 5 p.m. on Feb. 28 and 7:30 a.m. on March 1.
- **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A stolen 1989 Honda Accord was recovered on the 5300 block of Cypress Avenue at 9 p.m. The vehicle had been reported stolen to the Oakland Police Department on March 1.

Sunday, March 2

- **SHOPLIFTING** — A 32-year-old Richmond woman was arrested on suspicion of attempting to shoplift at Walgreens at 4:20 p.m. The woman attempted to walk out with items she concealed while in a bathroom. Police also found the woman to be in pos-

Wednesday, March 5

- **FRAUDULENT REFUND** — A 42-year-old Berkeley woman was arrested at Longs Drugs at El Cerrito Plaza at 4 p.m. after trying to get a refund on items she did not pay for.

Thursday, March 6

ALBANY POLICE

- **NO LICENSE** — Officers stopped a grey '98 Honda Accord on the 900 block of Taylor Street not having license plates. The driver, a 17-year-old Oakland boy, did not have a proper driver's license. He was cited and his car was towed.

Thursday, March 6

- **DUI** — At about 2:30 a.m. officers stopped an '89 Mazda near Fairmont and Carlson Avenues for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 29-year-old Richmond man, was found to be intoxicated and arrested for DUI.

- **VEHICLE VANDALISM** — A resident on the 600 block of Cornell Avenue reported that during the night thieves smashed the front passenger window of his white Honda Civic and stole the stereo. Thieves also broke into the 1000 block of Ramona Avenue and stole the in-dash stereo.

- **VEHICLE THEFTS** — During the night thieves stole a '95 Honda Prelude parked on the 500 block of Jackson Street. During the day thieves broke into a maroon '89 Honda Accord parked near West Place and Posen Street. Vandals smashed the windshield of a green '98 Toyota Camry parked on the 500 block of Adams Street.

- **CONCEALED WEAPON** — Shortly before midnight officers contacted a group of juveniles who were hanging around near Garfield Street and Kains Avenue. They arrested an 18-year-old Richmond man for carrying a concealed gun.

Friday, March 7

- **THEFT** — A resident reported that while at the Albany High School baseball field a group of males wearing all black clothing took her son's baseball glove and one was observed carrying a switchblade-type knife. Friends of the boy were able to retrieve the boy's

EL CERRITO POLICE

Thursday, March 6

ALBANY POLICE

- **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — It was reported to police that a man was seen breaking the window of a parked 2001 Dodge Ram truck on San Diego Street and San Pablo Avenue. The man was suspected of reaching into the truck and removing a black canvas bag and a brown dress and then running away.

- **DRUG POSSESSION** — A Richmond man suspected to be under the influence of narcotics was arrested during a pedestrian stop at Waldo Avenue and Kearny Street. Police found the man in possession of a small amount of methamphetamine and marijuana. There was also a \$30.00 warrant for his arrest.

- **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1987 Nissan Maxima was stolen from the 5600 block of El Dorado sometime between 10 p.m. on March 3 and 8:15 a.m. the next day.

Tuesday, March 4

- **VEHICLE THEFT** — A Nissan 300ZX was stolen from El Cerrito Plaza between 8 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

- **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A stolen 1993 Saturn SL was recovered at the El Cerrito Plaza south lot at 11:30 p.m. It was reported stolen to the Richmond Police Department on March 4.

- **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1990 Mazda 626 was stolen from the 3000 block of San Mateo Street between 9 p.m. on March 4 and 11:30 a.m. the next day.

Wednesday, March 5

ALBANY POLICE

- **FRAUDULENT REFUND** — A 42-year-old Berkeley woman was arrested at Longs Drugs at El Cerrito Plaza at 4 p.m. after trying to get a refund on items she did not pay for.

Thursday, March 6

ALBANY POLICE

- **THEFT** — An attempt was made by two juveniles to rob two Girl Scouts who were selling cookies in front of Safeway at 12:30 p.m. One of the girls was assaulted while an attempt was made to steal money from a cash box. The 15- and 16-year-old juveniles suspected of committing the act were located to Juvenile Hall.

glove. Officers contacted and arrested a 15-year-old Albany boy for possession of a weapon. He was transported to Alta Bates Hospital.

Saturday, March 8

ALBANY POLICE

- **VEHICLE THEFT** — The 700 block of McLean Street was reported that during the night two thieves had stolen a '93 Volvo SV70 from his home. The thief left the key in the car and the man had to have the key to the car.

- **VEHICLE BREAK-IN** — Three thieves broke into a Honda Accord in the 555 Pierce Street area.

- **BREAK-IN** — The residence on the 555 Pierce Street area.

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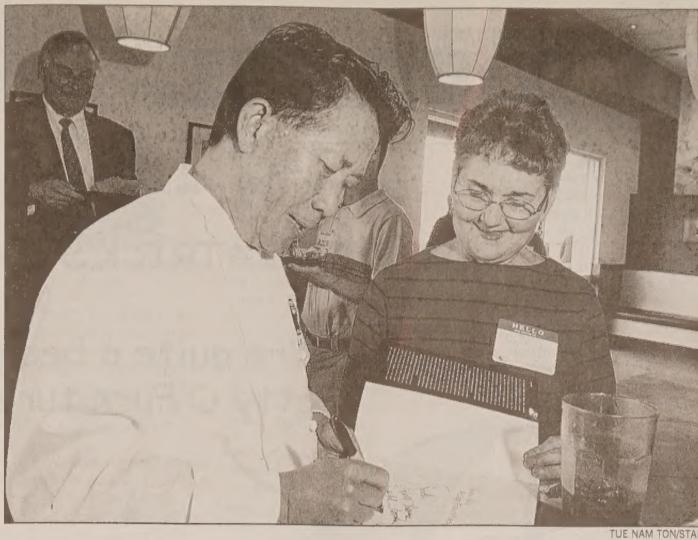
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ALBANY POLICE

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TER CHEF Martin Yan
graphs one of his
books for Judy Miller,
a local resident and
owner of thrift store The
Stuff in El Cerrito, during
the Cerrito Chamber of
Commerce mixer and fund-
raiser held on Thursday, March
13 at the Can restaurant at the



TUE NAM TON/STAFF

El Cerrito librarian's focus won't be divided



CLARA-RAE GENSER

Community Folk

The El Cerrito Library has its own librarian, which doesn't sound remarkable at that hasn't been the case for some time. The El Cerrito

shared a librarian with El Cerrito. Then, recently, Contra Costa County decided to re-locate the one-library, one-librarian status. The El Cerrito

disappointed but under-
standing when librarian Laura

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with a bigger, busier li-

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Educationally fallen

TWENTY YEARS AFTER THE shocking revelation that our education system is not turning out the brightest people in the world, we're more than a nation at risk. We're a nation in deep distress; we have fallen and it remains to be seen whether we can get up.

The Nation at Risk report revealed that American students could not hold their own in science and math with other industrialized nations' middle- and high-schoolers. Their scores were near the bottom.

That was 20 years ago. America reacted, perhaps frantically. We have pinpointed problems in the teaching profession — without being able to fix them. We can point to disparities among schools — without being able to vanquish them. And reforms were implemented, but success has been minuscule at best.

Although it was called propaganda, lies and half-truths exaggerated by the news media, the report seems to have gotten it right. The scores are still low; too much of the American population is undereducated. Something remains amiss in our education system.

Damage has been done. The nation is in a low place. Nearly two generations have gone through this warped system and are poorly educated. But we ignore their problems and the problems of the next generation as we fight over things that are essentially trivial, such as phonics vs. whole language reading.

Reform has had its moments — more money thrown at various problems, the teaching profession examined, facility and supply issues discussed, methods and standardization debated — but primarily it hasn't been able to sustain focus. It's come up against a system resistant and fearful of change. And it has been unable to reap substantial benefits because education has ceased being about schools, teaching and children and is instead a political entity, a game, a buzzword. Talk is big in politics, but actions — positive ones, at least — are few.

And American society suffers. The results of poor education are apparent in the quality of our politics, our popular culture, our economy. It is apparent when we see corporations seek graduates from other nations instead of American graduates, who simply don't have the needed level of technological competency.

Sadly, the sense of urgency that was a weight upon us has lifted. Twenty years is a long time to keep beating the drum for change, and many people have learned to block out the sound. Perhaps we need to try a new tune, a new instrument, because too many people suffer when education suffers. The reform needs to change hands. People, parents and communities need to be more involved than politicians and unions. And we must face it: A broken system may need more than patches and jury-rigging.

Education failures divide a nation and make it more one of haves and have-nots, one of separate and unequal. When the education system crumbles, all are affected, hence the phrase a nation at risk. We didn't heed the warning; now we as a nation have to find a way to pull ourselves up from this pit that is lower than mediocrity.

NO EXIT

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e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box

942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014, Fax: 916-319-2114; 918

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County Supervisors

John Giola: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-

costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd.

510-526-4141

School board members

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Karen Leong Fenton, school board president: 510-236-8460

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

By Paul Rockwell

CORRESPONDENT

Reese Erlich, Oakland-based foreign correspondent, and Norman Solomon, America's best-known progressive media critic, returned from Iraq a few months ago. Their new book, "Target Iraq: What the News Media Didn't Tell You," examines the role of the U.S. mainstream media in promoting war and empire. The Pentagon and the press, Solomon says, co-operators of illusion.

In plain, conversational language, we get a glimpse of the media in relation to many issues: the brutality and inhumanity of U.S.-British sanctions in Iraq (more than 500,000 children have died from sanction-produced disease and malnutrition, according to UNICEF);

false claims that Saddam Hussein kicked out U.N. inspectors when they were actually withdrawn during Clinton's air-blitz called "Operation Desert Fox";

BOOK REVIEW

"Target Iraq: What the News Media Didn't Tell You," by Reese Erlich and Norman Solomon (Contemporary Books, 208 pages, \$10.95)

the tragic aftermath of depleted uranium use in the First Gulf War; the back-room deals at the Security Council, where U.S. officials bribe and blackmail U.N. delegates for votes; the slippery standards in the interpretation of terrorism and political violence; U.S. espionage under cover of impartial U.N. inspections; the militaristic record of the "moderate" Colin Powell; and the imperial premises that underlie media coverage of world affairs.

"Target Iraq" is not about any media conspiracy. It contains no personal attacks on working journalists. On the contrary, Erlich describes the huge pressures — the rewards and

punishments, and the rigorous military censorship — under which mainstream journalists are forced to work. The book is really about the ideology of empire in American journalism, the structure that sustains it, and the human consequences of war propaganda.

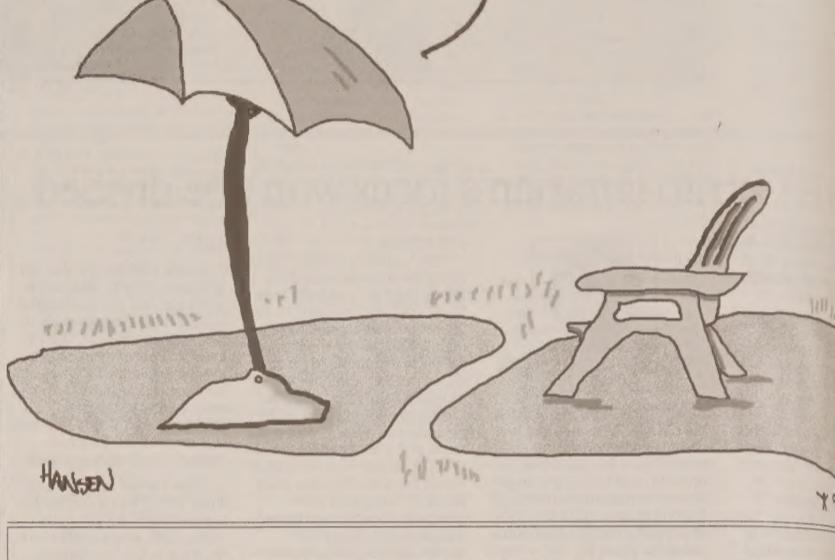
In response to the glorification of high-tech weaponry on our nightly screens, the authors present a fascinating chapter entitled: "Depleted Uranium: America's Dirty Little Secret," where Erlich uncovers the environmental toll of America's celebrated weapons. Much of U.S. ammunition and armor is made with depleted uranium, radioactive material that may well disable U.S. veterans and Iraqi civilians years after wars are over.

Depleted uranium is a residue collected from the processing of nuclear fuel. It is much denser than lead, and it remains radioactive for billions

EDITORIAL • JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

You're quite a beauty,
Patty O'Furniture.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's take our city back

I am writing to express my concern over increasing criminal and nuisance elements in El Cerrito.

I have been deeply disturbed over the recurring gang graffiti and "tagging" along the Ohlone Greenway, as well as the roving bands of obnoxious juveniles that seem to go unchecked during school and late evening hours.

These issues, coupled with the growing presence of beggars, derelicts and drunks at El Cerrito Plaza, and the recent rape of a blind woman by a suspect later released by an unjust court system to further prey upon El Cerrito residents, have left me with a very bad taste in my mouth.

It seems to me that if crime is going to rise in El Cerrito, unchecked by city and county officials, then it remains the duty and responsibility of us residents to defend ourselves, our neighbors and our community, by any means necessary.

Indeed, the safety and security of a nation — and by extension, a community — must be in the hands of its citizens rather than left in the hands of a bureaucratic legal machine that makes victims out of criminals.

In an age where people cannot walk the streets of their own city without the risk of being harassed by some criminal, the price of freedom is solidarity through vigilance. The time has come to make a stand and take our city back.

If we don't do it soon, we need only to look to the crime-infested slums of some Bay Area cities to see our future.

K.S. Anthony
El Cerrito

Chevron, the biggest refinery, hasn't measured it!

Yet, the other refineries have managed to measure theirs so they can reduce the hazardous stuff coming out.

Over the years, the flares at Chevron have lit up North Richmond at night, while residents complain bitterly about night air and asthma. I have wondered if some of what they are flaring is what used to come out of the hazardous incinerator and blew on the playground at Peres School — and the neighborhood — until public complaints got it closed.

Industrial carcinogens have offended me for many years but I found this admission by the air board shocking.

So it is now 22 tons per day, plus whatever Chevron discharges.

Jean Siri
El Cerrito

U.N. is the only hope

As patriotic citizens of this country, we urge President Bush and our congressional representatives to seek peace and justice in Iraq through the United Nations.

We must work with other nations to reach a solution to our world conflicts. To paraphrase Martin Luther King Jr., if mankind does not learn to abolish war,

war will abolish mankind.

The technologies and weapons of war will abolish mankind. The rest of the world has the potential to destroy us as we know it and we feel the precipice of endangering the entire human race.

We beg Bush to work through United Nations — doing so in a creative and collaborative manner. Our country needs to support the United Nations wholeheartedly, as this body remains the only salvation for peace and justice.

Hauske
John C.
E. C.

Are we the enemy?

The United States has the greatest military. The best ships, airplanes, tanks, generals, colonels, captains, lieutenants, sergeants, infantry, etc. So let's test every weapon out and see the war machine is good.

We took out Afghanistan. Let's take out Iraq. Should only take a month. Then we can occupy their country and pump out oil until it's all gone.

As for the national interest? Get out of our SUV's going.

Also, after taking out Iraq (probably by June), we should do a preemptive strike on North Korea — nuclear course. George W. and his team are advocating preemptive nuclear strikes in our national interest, so it's on.

Unfortunately, there are downfalls. We bomb the hell out of these countries, maybe we are the terrorists. We bomb the enemy, and it is us! Another side is all those dead civilians (and collateral damage, right?). We can't be sorry about that.

We will be hated by the rest of the world and terrorism will increase. Oh well, things can't be helped.

At
Kenne

COMMENTARY

Shocking admission

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District stated it does not know what is coming from Chevron's flares because

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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of years. Iraqi doctors and scientists attribute the high rates of disease and birth defects to the Gulf War.

It is ironic that the U.S. and Britain are the ones who are responsible for the Gulf War.

Iraq is framed in terms of arms proliferation. The same region is becoming a breeding ground for new technologies of death.

A moving picture of the

Zinn, an afterward by Penn, combined with the analytic power of the author.

"Target Iraq" is a timely and important book. And the conversation with the authors, who have turned from Iraq to the information about the costs of war and the more convincing

Paul Rockwell is a

brarian at the Albany

and a freelance writer.

him at

rockyspad@earthlink.net

cross-grade collaboration broadens students' learning



BETTY KING BUGINAS
Schools

ERTY OR 40 high school students descended on the Elementary School. If that image seems nervous, you've seen this crowd. Students, led by El High School teacher Jim, were armed with pens and wires, funny "space phones" with cable running between the birds that bob their heads in water, a silvery ball that makes your hair stand on end, another that flashes when you touch it.

Thursday, they shared elementary school students and their families the launching an air-powered rocket, of mixing chemicals to make a clear substance that — well, when it was called slime but seemed it looked like the of a sneezing fit.

Older students played together by hanging plastic and used a hand-powered generator to light light bulbs.

about big kids teaching kids, but the adults may about trying out and learning a new, too. As important the excitement of inquiry, all ages had a great time.

Friendships and partnerships for schoolwork formed across the two grade levels and, frankly, it was the parents who had the hardest time with the idea of having two grades together in one room.

For three years in a row, drama students from Portola Middle School came to our school to perform works by children's authors, and their performances rivaled the professional assemblies in popularity, quality and educational benefit.

The support from El Cerrito High hasn't been limited to the once-a-year science night, either. High-school science students have prepared and delivered lessons to most classes at our school.

There are many more opportunities for cross-grade efforts we haven't explored yet. I'm on the lookout for high-school teams to present other events like math night and literacy night.

Betty King Buginas is a teacher in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

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World made more sense with a Mr. Rogers in it

Quote of the week:
"Be gentle with the young." Juvenal, Roman poet and satirist, 55 A.D.-127 A.D.



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

"WATCHING MR. ROGERS was like being read to," is the way my father put it when I called him after Fred Rogers died. "I always said he was great and everyone laughed at me," he added. It was true — I remember teasing my father when he talked about how much he liked the television program. I found the slow pace and that easily mimicked voice irritating and it made me impatient.

And yet, like many others, I was affected by his death. When I read a letter to the "New York Times" in which a woman described bursting into tears when she heard the news, I understood. Like her, I was also surprised to have an emotional reaction, since I didn't regularly watch his program and neither did my children.

But maybe with peace and war being in the news so much lately, Mr. Rogers somehow symbolized our possibilities for being nice to each other. It is as if his death takes away that reliable grown-up who could make things better.

I found myself wondering how many children listened to his messages of respect and

took them into adulthood with them. How did those messages affect their lives? If they became politicians, do his words echo somewhere inside of them, helping them make wiser, gentler decisions? Do they see the connection between a fictional neighborhood and nations of peoples?

My father also appreciated his values and his sincerity. When I read a letter to the "New York Times" in which a woman described bursting into tears when she heard the news, I understood. Like her, I was also surprised to have an emotional reaction, since I didn't regularly watch his program and neither did my children.

I talked to other people about him. Were they affected by his death, I wanted to know? Did they have any thoughts about it?

One remembered the program when he not only visited a museum, but also showed the bathroom there. For her, this represented what she liked about him: the ability to understand the anxieties a child

might have and think of ways to relieve them.

Besides the television series, Fred Rogers also wrote books. These books, like his programs, deal with issues that may make young children (and possibly adults) anxious: divorce, love, making friends, going on an airplane, death and "wishes don't make things come true." It is amazing how pertinent these topics are to everyone's daily life.

As I was searching for information about Mr. Rogers, I came across many moving, first-person pieces about him, as a person and as a television figure. There were quotes and anecdotes from his life, giving us all a last chance to think about Fred Rogers and his neighborhood. But my favorite was the listing for the March 6, 2003, show, which was described as "helping children deal with their fear of the bathroom drain."

To me, all that's happening now feels like that same fear: the unknown, the speed, the feeling of something inexorable happening. Imagine if we could find a Mr. Rogers to tell us how it all makes sense.

READER REVIEW: Miriam reviewed today's book, which is "Fair and Tender Ladies" by Lee Smith. This adult book is about "the life of a woman of the 20th century, in Appalachia, told in letters and journal entries." She recommends it because "the narrator goes from about 12 to her old age, describing her surroundings and her life, and both are fascinating." She added that she's "recommended this book to many people and they all loved it."

At the Library runs Fridays. Reach Julie Winkelstein at the Albany Library or at jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org.

EL CERRITO SCHOOL NEWS

Portola Middle School

ALL THAT JAZZ — ON TAPE: Music parents can purchase a video of the Yoshi's Jazz concert. It's a great souvenir and good entertainment. Videos are \$10 each and the entire amount goes to the music program. Ask your child to get a form from Mr. Y or contact Donna Houser at dhouser@msn.com.

Do you have some time and want to hear a day full of good music? Mr. Y needs six parents to help chaperone and haul equipment when the Portola Advanced Band tours the elementary schools on Tuesday, March 25. It's a fun all-day event. Send a note to Mr. Y if you can help.

Upcoming concerts are: Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m., Richmond Auditorium — Honor Band Concert Monday, March 31, Jazz Explosion in the Portola Gym. This exciting fundraiser will have special guests

GATE MEETING: Ms. Spears has

scheduled a GATE parent meeting for Wednesday, March 26, at 6:15 p.m. at the school. She will have someone from each of the core departments to address parent concerns about GATE. Parents will send her an e-mail in advance notifying her of the parent concerns. E-mail your concerns to jhira@sc.co.contra-costa.ca.us

MIDDLE COLLEGE APPLICATIONS:

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Goals

FROM PAGE A1

Council members agreed they want to continue to use redevelopment money for San Pablo Avenue.

"There's so much we could do to make San Pablo a much more inviting place in which to do business and shop," said Councilwoman Gina Brusatori. It makes even more sense, she added, because a new civic center will likely be on San Pablo Avenue.

Brusatori said the redevelopment agency does not have

enough money to focus on too many specific projects and that the situation could get worse if the state siphons money off to help deal with its own budget crisis.

"I think the council is interested in seeing the redevelopment agency proactively do what's necessary to make the El Cerrito community better," added Mayor Pro Tem Letitia Moore.

The council also discussed how better to communicate with city staff. Councilmembers said they want to know how certain city issues or projects, such as the civic center, are progressing

behind the scenes. But they said they don't want to overwork city employees to do it.

"We need to do a better job communicating between staff and the council and between staff and the council and the community," said Brusatori, "because a lot of good things are going on but the information is not readily available."

Hanin said that several years ago, before he began working for the city, there was less communication between councilmembers and city staff and that he is working to change that.

"We're trying to get a good

working relationship" with the council, Hanin said, adding it is a matter of learning what the council's expectations are and keeping members informed about projects and issues in the city.

The councilmembers are still learning just how much work goes into running the city, as well as the various projects staff people work on, Moore said.

These projects include a zoning ordinance update, the Cerrito Theater, Del Norte BART station project guidelines and more. In some ways, she said, the city is busier than other cities twice

as big, but with a smaller staff.

Councilmembers said they want to attract and keep good employees at city hall and raised the idea of increasing pay and benefits.

El Cerrito would become a more attractive place to work if better pension benefits were offered, Hanin said. White, the facilitator, quickly pointed out it would also be a potentially expensive benefit.

The idea will be brought back to the council for discussion.

Other subjects brought up during the meeting included how to forge a better relationship be-

tween the city and the city of Costa Rica and the desire to bring to the city the idea of increasing pay and benefits.

Councilmembers wanted to make a presentation that were started within a reasonable time.

They also wanted the frequency of the meetings to continue to meet the goals as well as possible.

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or alopez@

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while waiting to see if employees who left will come back. The council's authorization will help the department plan for the future and also help address an immediate need," Kirkland said.

Some of the employees who left were on a worker's compensation plan. Another was ordered out for a National Guard tour that will last up to a year. By law, the department

must give jobs back to those who serve in the National Guard.

Kirkland expects to have the two new people hired in about three months and, after getting authorization from the city manager, could keep them permanently. However, the new employees would be considered "overhired" if the employees now out temporarily come back before the six months are up. Kirkland has been authorized to keep the four employees simultaneously for up to six months at a cost of \$42,000.

Kirkland said it was important

to keep an adequate number of record specialists to handle an increased demand in service.

The number of reported crimes in the city increased from 1,208 in 2000 to 1,524 in 2001. "We are on the rise in just about all the categories we report," said El Cerrito Police commander Dan Hurley. Categories include robbery, vehicle theft, DUI, aggravated assault and more.

Hurley noted that the increase of assaults to 184 in 2002 from 145 in 2001. Most recently, street robberies have been a concern, as has identity theft.

"In a city the size of El Cerrito, we're talking significant numbers," he said.

Within the last month street robberies along the Ohlone Greenway have increased, Hurley said. Plainclothes officers on bikes have been patrolling the area where the crimes have been reported and have arrested five people for robberies there.

Hurley said though he didn't know why there has been an increase in crime, he speculated that the number of calls to the department has increased because more people have realized it's a full-service department that

responds to a variety of circumstances.

The police department has received an average of 11,000 calls for service annually, Kirkland said. The number increased by about 3,000 calls in 2001 and 4,000 calls in 2002, he said.

"People in El Cerrito know they can call us for any public safety concern they have and we'll respond to that," Hurley said.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

LWV topic: single-payer health care

EL CERRITO — Dr. Howard Mitchell will speak to the League of Women Voters Richmond Area meeting on Tuesday, April 15 at Denny's Restaurant, 1134 San Pablo Ave. The annual business meeting begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and Mitchell's talk. State Sen. Sheila Kuehl introduced a single-payer health care bill (SB 291) on Feb. 21. Checks for \$11 payable to LWVRA should be mailed to Jean Lipton, P. O. Box 1118, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

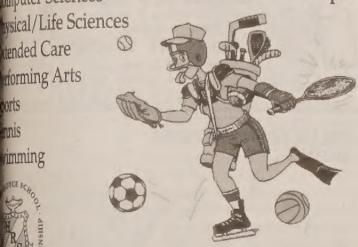
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Giving Beyond the Expected

Albany, firefighters set contract through 2006

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — After more than a year of negotiations, the city and its 18 firefighters have agreed on a new contract that will increase pay through 2006.

The increases, which bring the department closer in pay to others along the Interstate 80 corridor, are a result of Measure G, which Albany voters passed in November.

The department needs to raise pay to keep high-quality firefighters and sustain the department's four-minute response time to medical emergencies, said Fire Chief Marc McGinn. Four firefighters had signed up to test with another department until the pay raises were enacted.

"It was my understanding before the contract was signed, there were four individuals

signed up to take the Emeryville test and after the contract signed, no one followed through with that," McGinn said.

McGinn added that the department had lost five firefighters/paramedics and it had been difficult to replace them.

"At the time, we were not competitive with other cities, and it (Measure G) made a real difference to hire paramedics," he said. "I think, fortunately, now it's all behind us, and do really thank residents of Albany that came through in a time of need, especially considering the state of the economy."

After its contract expired at the end of 2001, the Albany Fire Fighter's Association lobbied the City Council for pay raises, and the council responded by putting Measure G on the ballot, which increased the city's emergency medical tax by almost \$27.

Earlier this year, the city and firefighters came to an agreement that increased their pay and retirement benefits over the next three years. The council approved the agreement in January.

Aaron Walker, the city's personnel analyst, said the firefighters' demand for a pay increase was understandable because several fire departments in the area have given raises.

"Safety units not only in Albany but in other cities are getting relatively large (pay) packages because they're valued by citizens because of the current heightened state of security, if you will," Walker said.

The salary increases will be staggered over the next four years. The first raises include a 6 percent increase retroactive for the year 2002 and a 5-percent increase effective January 2003.

A 4-percent increase will be given in January 2004 and again in January 2005. A 1.5-percent increase will go into effect in July 2005, a 3 percent increase will be given in January 2006 and a 2.5 percent increase will go into effect July of that year.

There will also be an enhanced retirement package that amounts to about a 10 percent increase, Walker said.

Mayor Jewel Okawachi said compromises were struck during negotiations though both McGinn and the City Council thought the end result was fair.

"We were pleased with the results," Okawachi said. "It took a while to come out with a contract but I'm pleased it came out as well as it did."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

News

FROM PAGE A1

spoke of an Internet vocation program, which he liked to the "21st-century version of auto shop" that he and his wife run at El Cerrito High School. The program, called Tech Futures, is graduating its third class of students this year.

Representatives of the West Contra Costa Public Education Fund mentioned that group's efforts to support West County schools by providing \$12 million in grants to the district. The Ed. Fund helped get a grant for Project REACH, a recreation and education program for low-income and high-risk students in El Cerrito schools, and sponsors the annual teaching excellence awards held for the last 15 years.

Kazue Nakahara, a teacher at Portola Middle School discussed the school district's science fair, in which 300 students participate annually. Linda Edley, from the Read-Aloud Volunteer Program, said she wanted volunteers to participate in that effort, to read to kids weekly and give them books monthly.

Others brought up problems they saw in the city.

Janet James, the administrator for the Eskaton Hazel Shirley Manor senior housing complex on San Pablo Avenue said there have been efforts to get a traffic light near the complex where two seniors have died within the last 14 years. Caltrans isn't doing anything to make the street safer, she said.

"We'd love a quick and easy way to get that taken care of," said James.

Keeshan said he "got a traffic light when you call me to it."

City Councilman Loubal said the TV look into the recession that used those developer and worker money to then-councilwoman as a pawn of the party.

Others had problems they wanted to see solved. One woman was held up by her boyfriend with her and felt she was treated unfairly by the couple. Another woman from a bartending a moving van she said she stole her.

Keeshan pointed out many of the stories could be covered in ways on the station, inspiring people to call in with light on positive stories. Events such as the Earth Day concert backdrop for an evening report, he said. The city's crime could be spotlighted in the burglaries in the area.

After the meeting said they were happy what surprised them was the report was paying attention.

"I thought it was coming out and did the James. "It would be great," she said.

The KGO-TV public

participation can be

954-7702.

Step

FROM PAGE A1

McBride is the founder of the McBride School of Irish Dancing, the largest such school on the West Coast. She's been teaching the art since she arrived in this country in 1959.

"I grew up in a large Irish community in Glasgow, Scotland," she says. "Back then, Irish dancing was our television, our radio, our movies, our everything. It was all we had."

Her first feis were small enough to be held at the Kerry House Pub on Piedmont Avenue. Nowadays, she has to rent the Oakland Convention Center. After starting out with a handful of students, her school now conducts classes all over the East and North Bay, from Danville and Oakland to Concord, Lafayette, Vallejo and Marin, taught by McBride, assistant Heather Farquar or daughter Eileen McBride-Parker.

And waiting in the wings is her 16-year-old granddaughter, Bryanna, the best dancer in the family.

"She has so much talent, but she doesn't practice half as much as she ought to," McBride says, shaking her head as she watches Bryanna effortlessly execute the most intricate steps and jumps. "Just imagine what she could do if she worked harder."

McBride fancies herself a stern taskmaster, but that's not the way her students see her. "She's so nice," says Colleen McNulty, who at age 7 is already a standout, what McBride calls "one of my up-and-comers."

"She always makes it fun," adds 8-year-old Robert Chappelle, a sentiment echoed by his mother Rita, who was once one of McBride's students, too.

"I've had boys and girls who were my students come back and bring their children and even their grandchildren to me," says McBride. "I've had many a champion; but I'll tell you, I do enjoy teaching the little ones."

Since Monday is St. Patrick's Day, McBride's dancers are naturally in great demand these days. "Actually, we don't have a St. Patrick's Day," she says, "we have a St. Patrick's Month."

Last Saturday, March 9, they were at St. Jarlath's Church in Oakland for the annual corned beef and cabbage dinner. Today they'll dance at the Elks Club in Alameda, then rush over to Marin County for a performance at the Marin Yacht Club later in the afternoon.

Tomorrow they'll be back in Alameda for a performance at St. Philip Neri's Church as a special favor to the pastor, Father Vin-



IRISH STEP DANCING instructor Annie McBride, at the McBride School in the Glenview Center for the Performing Arts, is preparing students for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day performance at the El Cerrito Eagles Club.

cent Cotter, who used to be one of McBride's students when he was a boy. Then it's over to the Sequoia Country Club in Oakland for an afternoon show.

On St. Patrick's Day itself they'll dance at the Dublin Chamber of Commerce's St. Paddy's Day luncheon and at Cliff's Bar in El Cerrito, in a joint performance with the All-Ireland Pipe Band.

Ancient roots

Irish step dancing goes back to the time before history, when the old dancing masters would travel from farm to farm, knocking on the farmhouse door and asking for food in exchange for an evening's entertainment. But

their knowledge would all too often die with them.

That changed in 1928, when the Gaelic League of Ireland formed the Coimisiún le Rinc Gaeltachta (Commission of Irish Dancing) to monitor and govern competitions all over the world. Today Irish step dancing is highly regulated, with national, regional and local bodies.

But it has never lost touch with its ancient origins. "Don't forget," says McBride, "the dances themselves are hundreds of years old, but we're dancing to tunes that are far, far older."

And even her youngest students feel the connection. Asked why she took up Irish step dancing

Aigne Ritchie-Boland answered, "Because my dad is Irish, and I wanted to be closer to his roots."

"Really?" said her father, Patrick Boland, clearly touched. "I had no idea. That's so good to know."

Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or msnapp@cctimes.com.

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Real Estate & Home

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Friday, March 14, 2003

Section B

Preemptive for homes stops future regret



House Hunting

purchase price.

Buying in a community that's on the upswing can result in a big payoff when you sell. These communities are usually located adjacent to more affluent communities that are beyond the price range of most buyers. Look for communities that are close to public transportation, and within a reasonable commute distance of a major metropolitan area.

Location within a community can also affect a property's resale potential. Usually, homes that are on busy streets, or next to freeways, will sell for less than similar homes that are located on quiet side streets. Being located across the street from a school, which can be noisy, may also result in a discounted price.

Buyers pay more for homes that offer easy access into the main living area.

See HYMER, Page B3

resale potential, as will market conditions at the time you sell.

There's usually higher demand for properties that are located in areas where the public schools are good. Because of the demand, these communities tend to be the most expensive. When faced with the alternative of costly private schools, many prospective buyers would rather pay for a more expensive home where they can send their children to the public schools. Mortgage interest and property taxes are tax deductible, which helps to offset the higher

Look at your closing statement can be maddening experience for everyone



Mortgage Madness

amount in additional closing costs. In a no-cost loan, those costs are covered by a higher interest rate and a deeper discount — or rebate — given to us by the lender so that we can cover your costs. That's all well and fine, but you should know what those costs are that are being covered.

Some costs pertain to purchases only, and I will indicate that as I go along: There are two kinds of fees: non-recurring closing costs (one time transaction costs) and recurring closing costs (those things you have to pay every month such as taxes and insurance).

Non-recurring closing costs

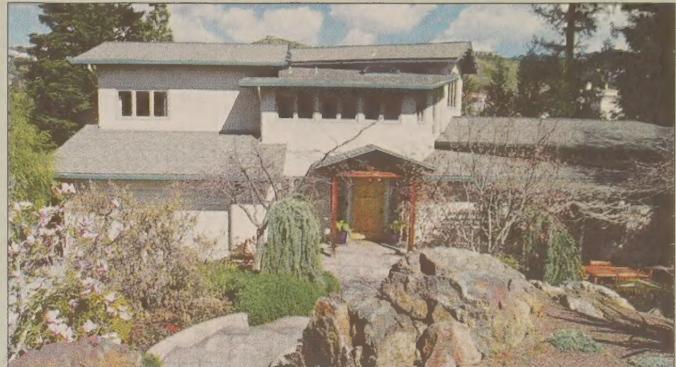
Loan origination points: As we

piece of property, the most important fee/closing cost may be the loan origination points (at least in my job), primarily because it is one of the biggest fees for anyone, that is if they want the lowest rate possible.

Those no-point loans that are so popular are in fact just a matter of interest rate. When you subtract the points they are still approximately 2 percent of the loan

Real Estate Spotlight:

Spectacular Upper Rockridge home



FROM THE MOMENT YOU MEANDER into the lushly landscaped entry with fountain you can sense how very special this property is. This contemporary Craftsman home was custom built in 1984, using a myriad of warm woods. The grand living room opens to a beautiful front slate patio with a serene Japanese-style garden. Together with the large rear redwood deck, this offers an effortless flow for gracious entertaining.

The gourmet kitchen with island has lovely wood views from each window. Formal dining room with wonderful Craftsman chandelier and built-in cabinets looks out to the redwood trees. Gorgeous cherry wood floors throughout add to the warmth of this abode. Upstairs has the spacious master suite with large office area and a room that could be the fourth bedroom. The lower level has two bedrooms, one bathroom and family room. Outside you can enjoy the many wonderful outdoor spaces with potential for sports and spa and the large level yard for garden and play.

This home is ideally located in the heart of the coveted Upper Rockridge area. Price: \$1,395,000. Open Sunday March 16 from 2 - 4:30 p.m. and by appointment. Contact Dee Knowland of Pacific Union at 510-338-1318. Photo tour at pacunion.com.

discussed above, it is still one of the biggest and most important decisions regarding the loan if you want the lowest interest rate. One point equals 1 percent of the loan amount.

Processing fee: The lender, whether you are working with a mortgage broker or a bank has overhead. This fee covers everything from copier service to postage to lights to gasoline. The average is between \$400 - \$600.

City transfer tax: (purchases only) This fee varies by city. Usually the cost is split 50/50 between seller and borrower. The City of

Oakland, for example, charges \$15 per thousand dollars of the sales price. So, a \$250,000 purchase would calculate at \$250 x \$15 (\$3,750) divided by 2 equals \$1,875.

County transfer tax: (purchases only) This tax is usually paid by the seller, however on occasion, especially in a hot seller's market, it can become a buyer's cost. All counties in California charge \$1.10 per thousand dollars of sales price.

Credit report fee: The same for everybody, individuals and married couples, equals \$15 to \$18. The credit report is a tri-mere of Experian, TransUnion and Equifax

Credit Reporting Bureaus and includes the credit score for each one. They also research all the public records for judgments and liens.

Appraisal fee: Whether purchasing or refinancing, the home must retain enough value for the lender to feel secure. Traditionally appraisals are based on sales comparables (you know, where somebody bought a house kind of like yours, with similar square footage, bedrooms and baths but was completely different?). Normally for a single family home,

See SENZIG, Page B2

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BY DAVE AND CARLA HIGGINS

CORRESPONDENT

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So should buyers wait for a buyers' market and sellers wait for a sellers' market? No, they should not.

Most sellers immediately turn into buyers themselves, and those who sell for a high price generally pay a correspondingly higher price for their next home. Sellers in a buyers' market may get a slightly lower price, but that translates into a lower price on their next house.

Buyers shouldn't wait for a "favorable" market either. Except for

relatively brief periods, housing prices have always trended upward. Recently, median prices of homes were appreciating nationally at a rate of 6.7 percent higher than at the same interval during 2001-2002. West Coast housing prices rose 10.4 percent and at the state level, homes in California appreciated 20.5 percent over last year.

So people who postpone buying will miss precious time enjoying their new home, and they'll also miss the appreciation that occurs in the home's value. That's why the best time to buy or sell a home is usually now.

A client and friend of ours once told us his father's saying and it always stuck with us, "Don't wait to buy real estate, buy real estate and wait!"

Dave and Carla Higgins can be reached at 800-525-3704 or by e-mail at homes@daveandcarla.com.

NAR and BAR launch Realtor pride campaign

NATIONAL ASSN. OF REALTORS AND BERKELEY ASSN. OF REALTORS

BERKELEY — The Berkeley Association of Realtors announced today their participation in the Realtor Pride Campaign — a new member-to-member campaign designed to encourage members to better associate themselves with their Realtor name.

Association President Joan Brunswick noted that, "Even though research clearly indicates most consumers would prefer to work with a real estate professional who is a Realtor, most members have not fully leveraged the opportunity to identify themselves to their customers as Realtors." The findings are according to a new survey recently released by the National Association of Realtors.

Between 1999 and 2002, the percentage of consumers who believe there's a benefit to working with a Realtor as opposed to a salesperson increased to 61 percent, up from 42 percent, according to the independent study conducted for NAR.

However, only two out of 10 Realtors wear their Realtor lapel pins when they meet customers, according to the study. Previous research supports that finding. In surveys taken in 2000 and 2003, 45 percent of customers said their brokers or agents had not identified themselves as Realtors.

"Consumers want to work with the best. NAR's highly successful national advertising campaign is building that awareness and foundation," said Brunswick. "We want Realtors in our association to realize the full benefits of membership and their Realtor status. It's time for all Realtors to express pride in their association."

NAR kicked off the Realtor Pride Campaign at the 2003 Realtor Conference and Expo in New Orleans to encourage members to wear their Realtor lapel pins, place their Realtor logo on their business cards and introduce themselves as a Realtor when meeting with customers. The campaign officially launched to all members March 1, 2003.

The Berkeley Association of Realtors and other Realtor Associations around the country will be supporting the program locally with materials and communications designed specifically to

More than one-third of all consumers recognized the new campaign theme, "Work with someone who will work with you. We're Realtors. Real Estate Is Our Life."

heighten the awareness of the issue and the members' valuable name and status.

Only real estate professionals who are members of the National Association of Realtors can call themselves Realtors. All Realtors adhere to NAR's strict Code of Ethics, which is based on professionalism and protection of the public. Realtors are held accountable for their ethical, professional behavior by their local association.

According to NAR's latest survey of consumers, conducted to measure the effectiveness of the advertising campaign, nearly half of all real estate home buyers and sellers recall seeing or hearing the advertisements on radio or television. More than one-third of all consumers recognized the new campaign theme, "Work with someone who will work with you. We're Realtors. Real Estate Is Our Life."

The National Association of Realtors, "The Voice of Real Estate," is America's largest trade association, representing more than 840,000 members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

The Berkeley Association of Realtors represents more than 500 members and has served the Berkeley/Albany area since 1902.

For questions and additional information, contact BAR association executive Terry Murphy eo@berkeleya.com or 510-848-4288.

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Real estate industry has banner year despite economic challenges

Prudential California Realty makes strong showing

PRUDENTIAL CALIFORNIA REALTY

PLEASANTON — Despite a sluggish economy in most sectors, Prudential California Realty (PCR) announced today that its tri-state offices in California, Nevada, and Texas exceeded \$10 billion in sales volume with more than 30,000 transactions in 2002 — a record high for the company.

PCR's banner year, which includes a 25-percent increase in sales

volume from 2001, reflects continued high demand as well as consumer confidence in real estate fueled by historically low interest rates.

National statistics for the industry

Nationally, final 2002 sales numbers for the industry as a whole are expected to shatter all-time records, with 5.56 million existing home sales and 979,000 new home sales, up 5.0 and 7.7 percent from 2001, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

Still leading the charge was the California market in which the sales of existing, single-family detached homes increased by 13.5 percent

from 2001, according to the California Association of Realtors (CAR). A new record of 572,550 homes sold was also set, compared to 504,430 from 2001. Additionally, the median price of a home in California in 2002 rose by 20.4 percent to \$315,870, setting yet another record.

Ed Krafchow, PCR's president, called the real estate industry "the backbone of the economy" due to the fact that it was one of the only sectors to see growth in 2002. Krafchow says he expects the industry to sustain its healthy clip in the first and second quarters of 2003 as interest rates remain low and demand high, especially in high-growth regions like the Bay Area, Sacramento,

Reno and North Tahoe. PCR recently WebTop 3.5 upgrades agents to electronically, and does tools and information. As well, the upgraded its website www.PruWeb.com can now 100,000 Multiple Listings in the community information, and even alerts when homes criteria are listed.

of the fiscal year's end, the buyer could pay on the time of the sale.

During a refinance escrow within 60 days, the first or second is due, the state requires pay that tax instead.

Fire insurance, the lender requires one full year to be paid through escrow. For purposes of the loan amount, the maximum the lender

When refinancing, require at least 1 month of the term of your loan. If you require that the policy is for a year from the and paid for through

Impound account

loan amount exceeds the value in the premium, lenders require the taxes and fire insurance monthly payment. They beyond taxes and have already collected. They will usually months payments on escrow account.

Refunding closing require be paid by the seller, mortgage lender through in most cases. So, it tells you that the cost loan, they are on the non-recurring cost of the loan.

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band Scott. She can

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REAL ESTATE MAILBAG

Umbrella insurance helps homeowner

Then your son should follow up with phone calls several times a week until he receives confirmation in writing that the property taxes were paid and his escrow account was not debited for the late charges and penalty. This is very important because the credit bureaus often report late property tax payments, and he may need to prove to them that the late payment was not his fault.

Your son should ask the loan servicer (1) who owns his mortgage (such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac) and (2) which state or federal government agency regulates the loan servicer. After the loan servicer pays the property taxes, your son should write the owner of his mortgage and the government regulating agency to report the loan servicer's breach of fiduciary duty and ask for an investigation to learn if the loan servicer failed to pay taxes for other borrowers, too. Maybe it was just an innocent error. Or maybe it is a serious embezzlement.

The new Robert Bruss special report "How to Profit from the New Rules for the \$250,000 to \$500,000 Tax-free Home Sale Exemption" is available for \$4 from Robert Bruss, 251 Park Road, Burlingame, CA 94010 or by credit card at 800-736-1736 or www.bobbruss.com. Questions for this column may be mailed to the above address or e-mailed to robertjbruss@aol.com.

you discovered, the premium is cheap. Although most umbrella insurance policies are never paid, they are well-worth the money in case of a major unex- pected liability lawsuit such as you

had to add to my recom- mending all your insurance policies to the same insurance company. Then there is no insurance company conflict. An insurance company had his umbrella policy with a different insurer than his life insurer, and it was a real headache which insurer would be which part of a large claim.

Should borrower do unpaid property

Bob: My son's loan servicer paid the property tax and escrow account on time. My son has received a bill with charges from the county tax assessor. What should he do? He has not promptly paid the taxes and seek reimbursement from his servicer. Do you agree? —

Bruss: No. The loan servicer has its fiduciary duty to not properly managing your account. Your son wrote a polite letter to the servicer insisting the property be paid immediately with an offer to your son. He can certainly the late charges are not withdrawn from your account. The reason for the letter is to begin a "pa-

Although one person was severely injured, and I got sued, thanks to your umbrella insurance policy suggestion, I was well-insured.

Escrow waiver is a new mortgage garbage fee

Dear Bob: My 1997 home loan with my lender was refinanced with that same lender in 2001. Both loans specified I would pay my own property taxes and insurance with no escrow impound account. Now, when I want to refinance again, my lender says they will charge me either a higher interest rate or a one-time escrow waiver fee if I insist on paying my own taxes and insurance. I have a track record of always paying these expenses on time. I even direct-pay my mortgage through checking account auto deduction. How can they get away with charging me for making my own property tax and insurance payments? Is this a garbage fee? — Michael D.

Dear Michael: Yes. Escrow waiver fees, which are charged by some mortgage lenders, are a relatively new borrower rip-off, known as garbage or junk fees. But some states, such as California, prohibit lenders from requiring escrow accounts, except for VA, FHA and PMI (private mortgage insurance).

mortgages. However, if you don't have an insurance and property tax escrow account, most lenders charge an up-front "tax service fee" of about \$75 when the loan is originated to hire a firm to check up on your property tax payments every year.

Especially with your superb on-time payment record and being a long-time customer, there is no valid reason why your lender should rip you off with a pure-profit escrow waiver fee. Unfortunately, such garbage fees are legal, except in the few states prohibiting them.

History classes — see page 5

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Underneath, it is the same land

#204 in a series of true experiences in real estate

We once met a drainage engineer hired by our client to look over his house. The client had been told that an old creek bed lay under part of his foundation and he wanted to know if there was anything he could do about it.

This engineer was not like any engineer we'd ever met. He was dressed in a khaki safari outfit and he had a leather-covered notebook clamped to his belt. We followed him as he silently walked around the outside of the house, watched as he disappeared underneath for awhile. When he reemerged, he took his time, settling himself comfortably before he began to talk.

I think we were expecting concrete specifications. Instead, the engineer told us stories. He described Indians in the old days pausing in their travels at the banks of the creek. Their ponies were loosed to graze nearby. Overhead, live oaks shaded. Yellowing grasses, bent by breezes, covered the gently sloping land. Deer started, rabbits huddled.

It was a stirring picture. I'll never forget it.

Time passed, the tale continued, and men moved in. They built houses, built them all over, some over the creeks. We were on that land now, the same ground where the Indians hunted and fished.

There are buildings and people and cars now, fences, concrete patios and curb cuts. The creek has

been culverted, contained and redirected by men, so there is not much water left under this piece of ground anymore.

"But," the engineer sang to us softly, "it is the same land, the same as it always was."

I was reminded recently of this story as Anet and I have been vacuuming ants out of a refrigerator. Everyday for a couple of weeks now, we've gone to an apartment I own, turned on the Electrolux and sucked up ants. They are mostly cold, dead ants. Some are still, very slowly, moving.

There are no paths of ants traveling toward the refrigerator. These ants seem to be walking into the freezer and main part of the refrigerator from somewhere inside the refrigerator walls. In the many years that I have owned the apartment and various refrigerators, nothing like this has ever happened, and I am at a loss as to what to do.

After the last tenant moved out, I had the floors refinished. The floor people unplugged the refrigerator for a week or so, then it was plugged back in and cleaned. There were no ants in sight. But when new tenants took over, they reported that there were ants in the freezer. "Ants in the freezer?" I asked. "How many? Are they dead?"

There were quite a lot of ants, and although we continue to remove them, there are always more. I called an appliance repairman. He said he'd never seen anything like it but he figured there must be



TARHOFF AND TALBERT
True Experiences

a finite number of ants. Why not just keep slurping them out? It shouldn't take too long to get rid of them all.

My tenants have been patient but they'd like to move into the apartment. With things as they are, they don't want to bring in any food. I hate to have to throw away a perfectly good refrigerator but it looks like that's the solution. What a strange situation.

At least it isn't bees. Years ago the client of an agent I know had bees in her wall. I think it was from behind her kitchen wall that she heard noises.

She called someone to investigate and they found a lot of bees and a great deal of honey. They had to take down part of the wall to get the honey out. The woman bottled it up and gave honey to her friends for Christmas.

Anet had raccoons at her house.

We work out of Anet's house, and a few years ago we noticed something smelly. Some days it was strong, other days, not so bad, but it kept on. We cleaned and aired out the house. Still the smell stayed.

Finally we called the pest trapper man. He crawled underneath the house and found a mother raccoon and her babies, all dead, which he removed. (What a job.)

About a year ago I had termites in my living room. There is a basement area under my living room and the fireplace chimney goes through both floors. Subterranean termites (the kind that live under the ground) had chosen the surface of the chimney as their home. They built tubes straight up into my living space — and gave me the creeps.

I didn't actually see the termites themselves, and didn't know they were termites, because they were inside their brown tubes. But I knew something alive was going on because the tubes were slowly multiplying. I'd see them attached to the brick chimney, sweep them down, and a week or so later, there would be new ones.

I called John McDonald at Mitts Termitc to come and look. "Subterranean termites," he said quite mildly.

Gad. "But John, these walls were completely rebuilt a couple of years ago," I said. "Torn back to the studs. There were no termites then.

Where did they come from? How fast do they eat? What shall I do?" (I was a little panicky.)

John is calm. In his work he sees lots of things. He told me that they eat slowly, they're in the ground everywhere, sometimes they come inside, and we need to kill them.

"Do what you have to do," I said.

and he did; he does from my living room. But probably because, as out as the same land is, this includes Pat Talbert and residential real estate can be reached at and at www.talbert.com

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\$1,099,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,119,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,139,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,159,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,179,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,199,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,219,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,239,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,259,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,279,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,299,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,319,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,339,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,359,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,379,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,399,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,419,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "Candy Lane." A 3bd, 1.5ba, 1 car needs work but has fine architectural detail. Near Mills College. Steve 510-814-4818

\$1,439,000 5817 Picardy Dr. Just Listed! Classic Tudor home on Oakland's "C

Own a piece of history

Books and classes
such styles

BY MARK A. WILSON
One of three parts
a few years ago, when I was
a series of seminars on
"Historic Real Estate" for the
National Trust for Historic Preservation.
I was asked by many of my real es-
tate clients how they could accu-
rately learn about the various styles
of historic buildings found in the
Bay Area, or in other parts of the
United States.

I told them to take any of the
seminars I taught at that
day. Seminars I taught at that
day through the National
Trust or their local Boards of
Real Estate. Unfortunately these
historic architecture seminars
are no longer offered, having
been a victim of federal or state
budget cuts.

There are a number of good
books and books on historic ar-
chitecture that are still available for
those who want to learn about
various styles of historic build-
ings found in the Bay Area, or the
United States. With a
minimum investment of time and
money, residents of the East Bay
can go to their local library, book
store or adult education center, to
find whatever they need to about
historic buildings.

During the next three columns,
I will describe my pick of the best
books and courses on local and na-
tional styles of historic architecture
available to residents of the
Bay Area. Below are descriptions of
the books and classes on Bay
Architectural History.

In future weeks, I will describe
books or courses on specific ar-
chitectural styles, and historic build-
ings throughout the United States.

There are many books in li-
brary or book stores that survey
historic buildings of specific Bay
Area districts, or the whole Bay

The only limitation with most
these books is that they give lit-
tle attention to most of the

East Bay communities, (with one
exception). The price of these
books is not included, since it varies
depending on which edition you
buy. Also, the date of publication
given is the year that the first ed-
ition was in print and not of sub-
sequent editions, since some of these
books are out of print, and avail-
able only in used book stores or li-
braries.

Selected books

■ For an excellent overview of
architecture throughout the Bay
Area, you should take a look at "A
Guide to Architecture in the San
Francisco Bay Area and Northern
California", by avid Gebhard, et al.
1973.

This glove compartment-sized
book does a very good job of sur-
veying the most important historic
and modern buildings in the Bay
Area, with numbered maps for walk-
ing tours of various neighborhoods
and a good description of various
styles in the index.

Architecture classes start this month

This spring I'm teaching
classes about historic architecture
in the East Bay: "Historic
Homes of the East Bay," at both
the Piedmont and Albany Adult
Schools.

This course will cover all the
major styles of historic buildings
in the East Bay, with slides and
handouts. I'll cover Spanish
adobes, Victorians, Craftsman
bungalows and mansions by Julia
Morgan and Bernard May-
beck. Art Deco movie palaces

in San Francisco's business district
and civic center as to their ar-
chitectural importance.

■ Also, "Here Today: San Fran-
cisco's Architectural Heritage", by
Roger Olmsted and TH. Watkins,
1968, does the same thing for the
rest of San Francisco.

■ A survey of Victorian styles of

See HISTORY, Page B6

Open Sunday 2-4:30 4548 Tompkins Avenue, Oakland



2 bedrooms, 1 bath, in desirable neighborhood.

New kitchen & bath. Great yard.

\$400,000



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Just Listed!

OPEN 1-4PM SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH



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Classic California rancher circa 1947, beautifully maintained with character and charm. Enter into the original tile and redwood lanai and step up to the dramatic formal living room and dining room with high ceilings and large windows. Three bedrooms, two baths, family room and large exercise or work room. Level lawn area, mature oaks, seclusion and close to town and BART. Price upon request

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Crocker Highlands Traditional



1049 Hubert Road

Charming 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath traditional on a wonderful street. Built in 1921, this home features a classic floor plan with delightful architectural details. Living room adjoins sunny family room with easy outdoor access.

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www.pruweb.com/jackiecare

Offered at \$845,000

Dolores Thom

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in San Francisco's business district
and civic center as to their ar-
chitectural importance.

■ Also, "Here Today: San Fran-
cisco's Architectural Heritage", by
Roger Olmsted and TH. Watkins,
1968, does the same thing for the
rest of San Francisco.

■ A survey of Victorian styles of

New Listing!
OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2-4:30



621 Arlington Ave, Berkeley

Georgeous sunny colonial with four plus bedrooms, three baths, filtered bay views, a family room on the main level, and a large level yard.

Offered at \$975,000

Wendy Gardner, CRS
Broker Associate
(510) 338-1303

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GMAC

cycle recycle recycle recycle recycle

The GRUBB Co.



5955 Giroin Drive, Piedmont Pines

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Dramatic Piedmont Pines contemporary home with gorgeous Bay views. Four very spacious bedrooms (two master suites), two attractive fireplaces, a wonderful spacious deck with hot tub and more!

Offered at \$829,000

ANGELA WEI GRUBB, CRS
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* 4.875% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing costs apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$1,530. Minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowners insurance is required.

* 5.625% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing costs apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$1,557. Minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowners insurance is required.

** 4.026% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. 3/1 adjustable rate mortgage fixed for first 3 years and then adjusts to market rate every year thereafter. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$1,517. Minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowners insurance is required.

*** 3.875% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. 3/1 adjustable rate mortgage fixed for first 3 years and then adjusts to market rate every year thereafter. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$1,517. Minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowners insurance is required.

Other restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of March 12, 2003 are subject to change without notice.



5565 Moraga Avenue, Oakland

Masterfully Designed and luxurious features are crafted throughout this newly constructed Traditional home. Featuring 4 bedrooms, 4 full baths, a fireplace, a state-of-the-art kitchen/family room, an office and a 2-car garage. Some of the deluxe enhancements of this exciting new home are its high ceilings, hardwood flooring, custom tilework, specialty lighting, curved crown moldings and walls and a lavish use of granite and marble.

Offering Price \$1,090,000

Aliky Vasdekkis

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aliky.vasdekkis@pruweb.com

Virtual Tour @ www.Pruweb.com/barbarahopper

The GRUBB Co.



4109 Coolidge Avenue, Oakland

Charming three bedroom/two and one half bath traditional!

Originally offered at \$595,000

Represented the seller

DANA COHEN

Office: 339.0400/348

dcohen@grubbc.com

GRUBBCO.COM



cated at 6137 La Salle Avenue, Oakland, and can be reached at 510-339-4700.

Staten hosts home buyer's workshop

GALLAGHER & LINDSEY

ALAMEDA — Gallagher & Lindsey Realtor Troy Staten will host a free home buyer workshop with Karyn Wolff from Bank of America Mortgage Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Bank of America, 1500 Park St. in Alameda.

"You will discover that it is easier to buy a home than you think. Find out how your dream of buying a home can blossom into reality," said Staten. "If you own a home and are thinking of getting a larger home, I have expertly represented people in realizing their dream. At this workshop you'll get step-by-step tips to nurture your goals."

Buyer's will get information about how to begin, find out how much cash they will need and learn about credit and qualifying for a loan.

Reserve your seat by calling Staten at 510-748-1125.

Holcenberg named to President's Premier

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

ORINDA — Wendy Holcenberg of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Orinda, has been chosen as a member of the company's President's Premier, an honor bestowed upon 1 percent of the more

than 90,000 Coldwell Banker sales associates internationally.

"The President's Premier designation is the most prestigious designation a Coldwell Banker sales associate can achieve," said Avram Goldman, president and chief operating officer of Coldwell Banker in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"I am proud and honored to recognize Wendy Holcenberg for an impressive year of exceptional sales production and am proud to have her as part of our professional team."

As a member of the company's International President's Premier, Holcenberg will be extended an invitation to attend the company's "Elite Retreat," a three-day conference for the company's top-producing sales associates in Washington, DC later this year.

Holcenberg graduated from University of California, Berkeley and has been with Coldwell Banker for more than 20 years. She is an associate broker, a Certified Residential Specialist and a Previews

Property Specialist.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Orinda, is at 5 Moraga Way

and can be reached at 925-253-4630.

See Bobbie Reid's "Credit Worthy" for more real estate news, page 10.

Coveted Upper Rockridge Open Sunday 2-4:30



6138 Ocean View

From the moment you stroll into the lushly landscaped entry with fountain, you can sense how very special this property is.

The contemporary Craftsman home was custom built in 1994, using a myriad of warm woods. The grand living room opens to a beautiful slate patio with a serene Japanese-style garden dripping with mystery. Together with the large rear redwood deck, this offers an effortless flow for gracious entertaining.

- Three plus bedrooms
- Two and one half baths
- Gourmet kitchen with island
- Cherry floors
- Large tree lined level yard
- Many wonderful outdoor spaces with potential for sports and spa
- Excellent location in most desirable Upper Rockridge area

\$1,395,000

Dee Knowland
Senior Sales Associate.
(510) 338-1318



DIANA DANIEL

GRUBB Co.



13735 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland

OPEN SUN 2-4:30. Located on 1.4 completely usable acres, this gated property features an updated kitchen, formal dining room, family room, separate guest suite, beautiful bay views, pool, separate workshop, wine cellar and endless possibilities.

Offered at \$1,249,000



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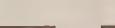
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REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$679,000
This home is a traditional 2-story home, ready for move-in. It features 3+ bedrooms, a cooks' kitchen, designer bathrooms, plus interior access from garage, au-pair/office, and a garden with a delightful patio. Miriam Wilson



ROCKRIDGE 2-STORY \$545,000
Adorable Craftsman located in popular Rockridge neighborhood. This great 2-story, 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath home has a sunny updated kitchen, hardwood floors, rear deck, lovely yard. Keith Tower



OAKLAND \$269,000
Three bedroom, one bath starter home - Totally upgraded including kitchen, bath, windows, plumbing, wiring. Freshly painted. Huge rear yard with garden. What a bargain! Angela Lawson



GRAND LAKE \$699,000
Totally remodeled Craftsman. Inviting old with new. Master suite with private deck, hardwood floors & French doors throughout. High-end kitchen. Gracious living room with fireplace. Angela Lawson



MONTCLAIR/THORNHILL \$849,000
Newly built Normandy style. Lovely curved brick walls with antique wood beamed ceilings. Many details in this one-of-a-kind design home. Enjoy two fireplaces in the living room and kitchen. A must see! Mel Copland



LAKE MERRITT \$729,000
The largest condo in The Regillus has just had a price reduction. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath plus a music room are included in the 2,000 square feet. Period architectural details, massive wood-burning fireplace, and hardwood floors. Doorman service included. Tom Erwin



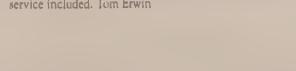
PARKWOODS \$379,000
1st Time open. "Piedmont" model at Parkwoods. 2 Bedroom, 2 bath unit in smallest building. One log fireplace, gas range, stacking washer/dryer and oak hardwood floor in living room. Amenities include pool, spa, fitness center, clubhouse and greenbelts. Tom Erwin



HAYWARD \$289,000
1st Time open. 2 Bedroom, 2 bath house next to Hayward Golf Course, includes wood-burning fireplace, formal dining room, in-unit laundry and private patio with fruit trees and own one-car garage with abundant storage. This is a "must see". Tom Erwin



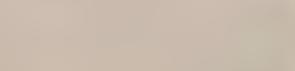
ROCKRIDGE LOWER \$700,000
AGENTS - Contact your Developer Clients! "Carrier" 2-3 units - Apartments or condominiums. Truly an "as-new" "sleeper-opportunity"! Superb & proven location with walking access to BART, SF Express bus, shopping, dining, theater, et al. Call D.C. Hodges for a free quote. D.C. Hodges



LAKE MERRITT \$295,000
Live in Oakland's famous Art Deco landmark. This 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo is bright and spacious. 1,000 square feet with oak parquet floors, wood-burning fireplace, formal dining room and a new efficiency kitchen with marble floor and volcanic stone counters. 24 Hour doorman and valet service included. Tom Erwin



LAKE MERRITT \$650,000
Open Sun 2-4:30
Top floor 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo in The Regillus with panoramic views from every room. Has hardwood floors, high ceilings, impressive architectural details and a massive wood-burning fireplace. The kitchen is a new remodel with cherry cabinets, granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Doorman services included. Tom Erwin



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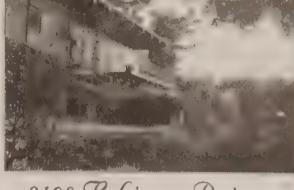
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Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B1

Panoramic Oakland Hills View Home!

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2-4:30 PM



3108 Robinson Drive

This 3+ Bedroom, 2.5 Bath contemporary is located at the end of a private drive & sits upon .3 acres lot with tons of privacy. The panoramic SF bay view can be seen from all levels and from the lush garden, patio and sparkling pool. There are 3 bedrooms / 2 baths on the main level along with the kitchen/great room which opens to a private rear patio garden and a front viewing deck. The lower level offers one-half bath & recreation room which opens out to patio, pool and garden.

View on www.3108robinson.com

Offered at \$695,000

Rich Gould

Senior Sales Consultant
(510) 338-1347

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2 New Listings



Marina Bay

Beautiful, water surrounded and security gated community, walk to bay trail and parks, cathedral ceiling in living room, fireplace in family room, lush garden with patio in backyard, resort lifestyle \$558,000 #162



Nice North & East Area

Lovely, well-maintained in Clinton Hill area. Big family room with full bath, eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, p.h. hardwood floors under carpet, 2-car garage and lots of parking. \$329,000 #166

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Two Tunnel Road, Berkeley, CA 94705 • Phone 510/845-0211 • www.pruweb.com/claremont

Open Sunday

MONTCLAIR \$1,495,000

6500 GWIN RD. (Open 2-4:30)

Prestigious 2-year-old home set on level private knoll with top-of-the-world SF and Bay views. Terraces, gardens, and sweeping lawns. 4BR/3.5BA. Bonnie Hirsch x1337

MONTCLAIR \$1,475,000

16024 BROADWAY TER. (Open 2-4:30)

Court yard design. Great bay views. Large kitchen/family room. 4+BR/3.5BA, 2 suites. Francis Heath x1357

Fatima Ali, Andrea Arata, Heather Brown, Luisa Castillo, Natalie Cuttler, Paul Di Leo, Colette Ford, John Gardner, Roy Grigsby, Carmen Grim, Rick Gutierrez, Rita Harrington, Amy Hayashida, Timothy Hedges, Sharon Ho, Barbara Hopper, Julie Lehman, Barbara Levy, Helen Mar, Orrtrun Niesar, Gaby Olander, Anja Plowright, Leo Rachal, Jeff Roberts, Camille Rogers, Libby Royster, Steve Ryman, Ernie Sexton, Dan Stone, Daisy Tan, Nancy Taussig, Alisy Vasdekis, Jeanette Vento, Ted Normart, Manager

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Open Sunday

Open Sunday

Open Sunday

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,395,000

6138 OCEAN VIEW DR. (Open 2-4:30)

Distinctive custom Craftsman. 3+BR/2.5BA gourmet kitchen, cherry floors, lovely patio, level yard, excellent location. Dee Knowland x 1318

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,295,000

6117 BUENA VISTA AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

Stately Mediterranean style home with sweeping SF/bay views. 4+BR/2.5BA, den and chef's kitchen. Joanna Hirsch x1366

PIEDMONT \$1,250,000

190 MAXWELTON RD. (Open 2-5)

New listing! Unobstructed S.F., Bay & G.G. views. 4BR/3.5BA, den, family room, deck spacious patio & lush terrace gardens. Lorri Arazi x1330

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,195,000

1141 CLARENDON CRES. (Open 2-4:30)

New listing! Located on a huge lot in a park-like setting. Elegant 3+BR/2.5BA home plus guest house w/bath & maple floors. Ann Nichols x1319

MONTCLAIR \$1,175,000

1225 MOUNTAIN BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)

Stylish new home w/high ceilings, cherry floors & artistic stonework. Large family room opens to garden. Close to Montclair Village. 4BR/3.5BA. David Ichikawa x1331

MONTCLAIR \$759,000

6464 GIRVIN DR. (Open 2-4:30)

Stylish new home w/high ceilings, cherry floors & artistic stonework. Large family room opens to garden. Close to Montclair Village. 4BR/3.5BA. David Ichikawa x1331

MONTCLAIR \$419,000

431 38TH STREET (Open 2-4:30)

Charming Victorian farmhouse. 3+BR/1.5BA. PDR, hrdwd floors, sunny yard. Blocks to BART. Bob & Carolyn Nelson x1345

TEMESCAL \$419,000

4328 TOMPKINS AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

Charming Victorian farmhouse. 3+BR/1.5BA. PDR, hrdwd floors, sunny yard. Blocks to BART. Bob & Carolyn Nelson x1345

OAKLAND HILLS \$465,000

117 MOUNTAIN VALLEY (Open 2-4:30)

Updated townhouse, sweeping Bay/SF/country club views, spacious, level backyard. 3BR/2.5BA, 2 car garage. Jennie Flanigan x1354

TEMPLESTOWN \$325,000

9870 OLIVE ST. (Open 2-4:30)

Charming 2+BR/1.5BA Monterey colonial style home in a friendly neighborhood. Huge yard, Lanai, even a well! Don't miss out on this one! Fritz Hochfellner x1348

UPPER LAUREL \$319,000

4328 TOMPKINS AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

New listing! Charming bungalow. 2BR/1.5BA, large eat-in kitchen, separate laundry room, small backyard & many improvements. Kathy Flynn x1317

OAKLAND \$325,000

2543 MONTICELLO AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

Simply adorable 2 bedroom bungalow w/hardwood floors, fireplace, vintage tiled bath. Lorri Arazi x1330

OAKLAND \$325,000

9870 OLIVE ST. (Open 2-4:30)

Charming bright 2BR/1BA on great street. Detached workshop/studio w/skylights, eat-in kitchen, remodeled bath, hwdw floors. Yard. Carla Remmington x1367

OAKLAND HILLS \$369,000

7530 VALENTINE ST. (Open 2-4:30)

Charming bright 2BR/1BA on great street. Detached workshop/studio w/skylights, eat-in kitchen, remodeled bath, hwdw floors. Yard. Carla Remmington x1367

OAKLAND HILLS \$369,000

7530 VALENTINE ST. (Open 2-4:30)

Charming bright 2BR/1BA on great street. Detached workshop/studio w/skylights, eat-in kitchen, remodeled bath, hwdw floors. Yard. Carla Remmington x1367

SAN LEANDRO \$329,000

3301 VALE AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

Adorable 3BR/2BA bungalow. Large level yard. Approx. 1200 sq. ft. Master suite & level patio. Kathy Flynn x1367

SAN LEANDRO \$329,000

3301 VALE AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

Charming 3BR/2BA in Emeryville. Elegant formal rooms, remodeled kitchen w/inviting breakfast room. Redwood deck. Candy Bremm x1367

OAKLAND HILLS \$325,000

9870 OLIVE ST. (Open 2-4:30)

Next to the Zoo. 3BR/2.5BA, 2nd floor, downstairs rumpus room, level patio, 2 car attached garage. Kathi

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$325,000

1141 CLARENDON CRES. (Open 2-4:30)

Architecturally rich 5+BR/5.5BA, sq. ft.; gorgeous formal rooms, attached garage. Jettes, Ichikawa x1331



Huge Sophisticated Loft

Open Sunday 3/16 & 3/23 11-4

250 Powell Street #2, Emeryville

Offered at \$440,000

Stunning, spacious 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath loft with roof deck and secure parking. Building on May 1941 warehouse. Quality architectural details. HWD, exposed original brick, steel I-beams, wood-beamed vaulted ceilings, 1500 sf. Close to Powell Street shops, theaters, and restaurants. A large private roof deck offers views of the Oakland and Berkeley hills and opportunity for gardening, entertaining and outdoor relaxation. Huge windows allow sunlight to flood the loft interior.



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5 Contra Costa, Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2-4

listing! A delightful traditional with gorgeous views of the Bay and Golden Gate. Located in one of North Berkeley's most popular neighborhoods, just moments from upper Solano Ave. 3 bdrms, 2 baths, coved-ceiling formal dining room, large eat-in kitchen w/ fireplace, formal dining room, large eat-in kitchen, a flexible office/guest/family room, beautiful wood floors, a spacious flowering rear garden, and great

space.

59000. Peter Damm x13

Stevenson Ave., Berkeley
(between Grizzly Peak and Miller)

Appointment

cross Golden Gate, Bay Bridge & San Francisco views in this sun-filled hill home. All one-level living. Large formal room w/ fireplace, spacious kitchen w/ large eating area, master suite & bath opens to deck & garden. More sunny bedrooms & bath. Lower level has a den & bath w/ separate entrance & a double garage. 56000. Maya Trilling x18

66 Hudson, Rockridge

Open Sunday, 2-4

listing! This stunning craftsman bungalow within easy access to Market Hall, all College Ave. amenities and BART offers three generous sized bedrooms & 2 full baths and remodeled kitchen. Brick fireplace, boxed-in beveled glass hutch, wainscoting and more. An added bonus is the artist studio and well tended yard.

50000. Joan Brunswick x12

714 Benvenue, Berkeley

Open Sunday, 1-4

listing! 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. John Hudson Thomas & crafts details intact. Period appropriate kitchen. Feels like a bungalow—legally a condo. 511 Elmwood location. 50000. Arlene Baxter x19

75 Tulare Ave., Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2-4

listing! 1st Open in over 30 years! Spacious, elegant style home in terrific upper Solano Ave. neighborhood. Vaulted ceiling in living rm, formal dining room, kitchen cabinets. Handsome details throughout. Big sunroom & breakfast room. Great attic expansion potential. 2 baths, garage, laundry, basement. Big yard. In need of a little TLC for the next 30 years.

50000. Nancy Mueller x20

47 Wheeler, Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2-5

listing! Amazingly lush garden affords privacy and great dreams! Special 1907 Bungalow w/ generous living room. Beautiful wood detailing in the formal dining room; the fun family room opens from kitchen. 2 baths. 50000. Warren Lei x14

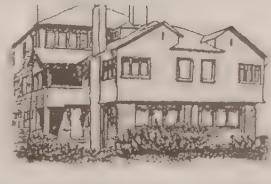
43 Hilgard Ave., #1, Berkeley

Appointment

listing! Very charming, spacious, light-filled, corner unit in small 4-unit complex. HWD floors, fireplace, updated kitchen w/ nook or large pantry area. Custom computer desk area off of charming formal dining room w/ French doors. Close to U.C., Gourmet Ghetto, & deli shops & cafes! Includes washer/dryer inside. 50000. Denise Milburn x35

Thank you so much for sticking by us through the long haul, and for being such a wonderful and caring agent. We are so happy in our new home and feel more grateful to you than we can say!

—C. R. S. & S. S., Oakland



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Panoramic Views in Piedmont!

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2-5 PM

190 Maxwellton Road



Handsome built on a promontory for ultimate privacy, this extraordinary home offers unobstructed views of downtown San Francisco, the Bay, and the Golden Gate Bridge! The living/dining room is graced with floor to ceiling fenestration for full appreciation of the views. The floor plan includes 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, a den and a family room. A view deck, spacious patio, and lush, terraced gardens provide the perfect setting for this most livable work of art!

Offered at \$1,250,000



Corri Rosenberg Arazi
Broker Associate (510) 338-1330



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★ Indicates Homes Being Held Open

OAKLAND/PIEDMONT

Panoramic Views \$2,400,000 Grand European Normandy style 4BR/3.5BA, newly rebuilt Albert Farr; exquisite craftsmanship throughout, prime upper Rockridge location with fabulous views.

Ford/Plowright
(510) 593-8376



★ Open Sun. 1:30-4:30 \$845,000 1049 Hubert Rd. Charming 1920's home. 3BR/1.5BA, formal dining room, family room, French doors to deck and fabulous level yard. New listing!

Jackie Care/Dolores Thom
(510) 834-2010

★ Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$1,395,000 3 Contra Costa Pl. New Price! Level-in 4+BR/3+BA, SF to Marin views. 2 Master suites. Huge family/entertainment room.

Betsy/Gina
(510) 428-0900

★ Open Sun. 2-5 \$1,395,000 195 Roble Rd. Sophisticated, modern 3+BR/2.5BA courtyard custom home. Vaulted ceilings, new construction, atrium, arched, large lot.

Ford/Plowright
(510) 848-1093

★ Open Sun. 2-5 \$1,090,000 5565 Monaga Ave. Fabulous newly constructed contemporary 4BR/4BA, office, large family room, high ceilings.

B. Hopper
(510) 845-0211

Piedmont \$949,000 Versatile large home with legal in-law, 5+BR, 4BA, yard, two car garage, close to schools.

Glass/Sabine
(510) 428-0900

★ Open Sun. 2-5 \$900,000 1080 Harvard. Gracious traditional located on a large corner lot with close distance to Piedmont schools, shops and transportation.

H. Chew
(510) 287-9003

★ Open Sun. 2-5 \$395,000 7540 Sterling. 2BR/2BA, spacious rumpus, park-like yard, remodeled kitchen & BA, hardwood floors. A special gem.

Shirley Covington
(510) 834-2010

★ Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$399,000 3148 Monicello. Charming 3BR/1.5BA Maxwell Park bungalow with hardwood floors, fireplace, and room to grow.

Brian Santilena
(510) 339-9290

★ Open Sun. 2-5 \$879,000 130 Highland Ave., Piedmont. Pretty 2 story Mediterranean. 3+BR/3BA, level backyard, updated.

Vickie & Aleso
(510) 428-0900

★ Open Sun. 2-5 \$245,500 1960 87th Ave. Cozy 2BR/1BA. Freestanding fireplace in living room, 3 year roof, satellite dish, home warranty.

Phyllis Turner
(510) 834-201

★ Open Sun. 1:30-4:30 \$495,000 2200 6th St. 2BR++ and comm. space, former body shop, lots of extras, unique opportunity for creative buyers!

Michele Horner
(510) 868-1400

ALAMEDA \$159,000 1709 Paru Street. Wonderful Queen Anne Victorian. 3BR/1.5BA, a must see!

Reina & Isabel Soto
(510) 337-8670

BERKELEY/ALBANY

★ Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$479,000 450 Cob Bellena #D. Sunny, spacious 3+BR/2+BA on-level townhouse w/cathedral ceiling & 2-space parking.

Gene Boomer
(510) 339-9290

EL CERRITO \$157,900 2881 Lowell, Richmond. 2BR/1BA, beautifully remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, huge backyard, great for entertainment.

Diane Cuckrell
(510) 527-9800

HAYWARD \$185,000 4626 Liberty St. New listing. 2BR/1BA, gleaming hardwood floors, new furnace, garden & detached garage.

Terrence Jue
(510) 868-1400

★ Open Sat. 1-5, Sun. 1-4 \$259,000 204 Kenyon, Kensington. Panoramic views, move-in condition. Details & pictures online: ThatHouseDetective.com

Chris Neddersen
(510) 868-1400

★ Open Sun. 2-4 \$379,000 836 Liberty St. New listing. 2BR beauty, gleaming hardwood floors, new furnace, garden & detached garage.

Candice Economides
(510) 868-1400

★ Open Sun. 2-4 \$235,000 1428 Ward. 2BR/2BA, yard, needs cosmetic work. Basement, fireplace.

Barbara Levy
(510) 869-2786

How About A Lot? \$235,000 Woodsy slopehouse lot high in the Berkeley Hills. Million dollar neighborhood, soils report, partial view.

Candice Economides
(510) 868-1400

★ Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$339,000 1428 Ward. 2BR/2BA, yard, needs cosmetic work. Basement, fireplace.

Barbara Levy
(510) 869-2786

★ Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$39,000 601 Kenyon, Kensington. Panoramic views, move-in condition. Details & pictures online: ThatHouseDetective.com

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Chris Neddersen

A look around the real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC Home Buying 101

Attend a free first-time home buyer's workshop. Senior loan consultant Stan Johnson of First Security Loans presents ongoing seminars for those interested in learning the ins and outs of home buying. A variety of topics are covered, including how to buy for no money down. To register for a future seminar call 510-614-2433.

REALTOR.com

If you are interested in buying or selling real estate, research reports confirm that REALTOR.com remains the number-one Web site choice of consumers. The site receives support from hundreds of thousands of Realtors. Check it out at REALTOR.com.

Good neighbor awards

Realtor magazine is seeking nominations for its fourth annual Good Neighbor Awards. The program recognizes Realtors whose commitment to community service has helped make their community a better place. Five winners will be announced in the magazine and honored at the 2003 Realtors Conference & Expo. Award entries must be received by May 1. For more details call 800-874-6500.

Real estate reunion

Be a part of the Real Estate Ole Timers Reunion Luncheon. The reunion started 10 years ago and is the brainchild of Bob Valva of Valva Realty in Oakland. "It's an opportunity to get together with friends and industry acquaintances from the past," said Valva. "People get busy and lose touch. This reunion is a fun and easy way to catch up."

Real estate agents and affiliates from Berkeley, Oakland, Alameda and San Leandro, aged 55 and over are invited. If you would like to be on the mailing list or receive more in-

formation call Valva at 510-451-7317.

Rental housing meeting

The Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County offers a membership meeting monthly. Non-members are also invited to attend. The next meeting is Thursday, March 20, at 6:45 p.m. The meeting is at the Greek Orthodox Church on Lincoln Avenue in Oakland. Guest speaker is Dennis Kaminski on "Tax and Financial Issues for Rental Property Owners". For information and registration call the RHANAC office at 510-893-9873.

ARPB network breakfast

The Associated Real Property Brokers (ARPB) presents "The Dynamic Networking Breakfast," Wednesday, March 19, from 8 - 10 a.m. The new location is Jimmie's Entertainment Complex on San Pablo in Oakland. Real estate agents are encouraged to bring flyers and market their properties. The meeting is open forum. For more information call Tyrone Cosey of Fidelity National Title at 510-893-8100.

WCR events

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter is a co-sponsor of the annual "Day At The Races". The event is Wednesday, March 19 at the Golden Gate Fields Turf Club. Post Time for the first race is 12:45 p.m. with the last race at 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person and includes a buffet luncheon beginning at noon. WCR's "Day At The Races" is held in conjunction with the San Francisco and Contra Costa chapters. Wear your most unusual hat and win a door prize. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Reservations are a must. Contact Lee Jacobson of Pacific Union at 510-338-1309.

The WCR East Bay Chapter monthly meeting is Friday, March 21. The discussion topic is "Get A Clue" on insurance issues affecting real estate in California. The meeting begins with networking at 11:30 a.m. It's at Scott's Restaurant, Jack

the WCR East Bay Chapter monthly meeting is Friday, March 21. The discussion topic is "Get A Clue" on insurance issues affecting real estate in California. The meeting begins with networking at 11:30 a.m. It's at Scott's Restaurant, Jack

OUR FEATURED HOME 152 Centre Court, Alameda

Lowly townhome in Harbor Bay Isle



Peter Fletcher, CRB, CRS
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2 Master Bedroom Suites,
2 1/2 Baths
Fireplace
1664 sq. ft.
Sunny Backyard

\$449,000



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Properties of the East Bay

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Montclair Better Homes Realty

9229 SKYLINE BOULEVARD, OAKLAND

Located just a few steps to a Redwood Regional Park entrance, this peaceful home is surrounded by serenity and natural beauty. Offering beautiful landscaping, a bright, cheerful floorplan with vaulted ceilings, brand new wall to wall carpet, and fresh paint throughout. Listen to the sounds of nature as you watch the sun set on a beautiful spring evening from one of three brand new redwood decks nestled among mature trees. This home is big enough for friends, but intimate enough for quiet evenings alone.

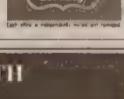
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MARCH 16TH
2PM - 4:30PM

Asking Price \$529,000

Montclair



OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY • MARCH 16TH

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Gracious Living In Crocker Highlands!



629 Trestle Glen Road

This gracious three-story Tudor home with nearly 2500sq.ft., has been extensively remodeled. Beautiful marble inlay floors, custom built cherry wood mantle, new landscape with Japanese red maples, Bonsai trees and slate walkway. This unique house features 4BD/3.5BA, dramatic oak spiral staircase, sunken living room, elegant formal dining, dual pane windows, gourmet kitchen and family room leading to flagstone backyard, spectacular master suite.

Offered at \$899,000

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partner of the National Association of Realtors. Sizable discounts with preferred pricing and cost savings are offered to members. One aspect of the program is an online benefit at fedex.com, where a shipping address book can be stored and labels created. To learn more about the NAR and FedEx program visit www.realtor.org/realtorVIP.

"e-buyer" course

The Real Estate Buyer's Agency Council of the National Association of Realtors is offering an elective course. The course, called "e-Buyer," is designed to help take the next step after mastering computer and Internet basics. REBAC is the awarding body for the ABR (Accredited Buyer's Representative) and ABRM (Accredited Buyer's Representative Manager) designations. To learn more about this six week course and ABRM designations call 800-648-6224 or visit the website at www.rebac.net.

WHO'S ON FIRST

Realtor and task force Chairperson, Lois Harris of Prudential California Realty wants to send kudos to Liz with the Ad review and Bill of Flyer Delivery Service for all their help with the OAR Fundraising Task Force. The task force raises money to help the Oral Lee Brown Foundation provide college educations for Oakland school chil-

dren. Harris encourages everyone to participate in this worthy endeavor. If you would like to help, contact Harris at 510-834-2010.

The Alameda Association of Realtors launched their new Web site.

The Web site committee is open to suggestions for enhancement of the site. Visit www.alamedaaor.org or 510-523-7229.

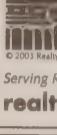
WHAT'S UP DOCTOR

Someone new in the company is doing something. Putting on a seminar. I'd love to let the world know about it. Weeks before the seminar, email to bob@spring.com. Fax you

Real Estate Made Real - #1 in a Series

WHY LEAVE A 50% T

When property owners sell through other brokers, they often pay up to 50% more in commissions than owners who sell through us. Please check our website for the facts on how we will generate more money for your home sale.



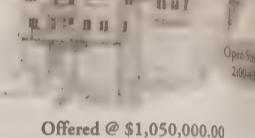
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6750 Charing Cross Road

Hiller Highlands Contempor



Open Sat. 2pm-4pm

Offered @ \$1,050,000.00

Spacious and bright, this 4 bedroom 3 bath hillside home, years new. Its serene master bedroom features distinctive bathroom & a walk-in closet; three additional bedrooms w/generous closets. A distinctive dual-sided fireplace from the living room & formal dining room. The spa pantry & a casual dining island w/a prep sink. Additions include volume ceilings, warm slate floors, attached 2 decks, 3 skylights & more. For more information, contact

Lydia Nayo

510 339 4728

Arwriter@attglobal.net

Make Your Best Move With Lydia Nayo



ALBANY

5231 Briggs Av - \$865,000
301 Broadway #310 - \$316,000
1601 Broadway #8 - \$279,000
1208 Buena Vista Av - \$400,000
1001 Eagle Av - \$352,000
215 Ennismore Ct - \$489,000
3259 Fernside Bl - \$775,000
2137 Otis Dr #212 - \$300,000
1804 San Jose Av - \$539,000
3290 San Jose Av - \$120,000
1001 Shoreline Dr - #303 - \$410,000
965 Shorepoint Av - #314 - \$240,000
1321 Webster St - #D306 - \$170,000

BERKELEY

1839 63rd St - \$345,000
1019 Allston Wy - \$345,000

See SALES, Page B12

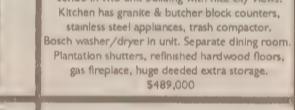
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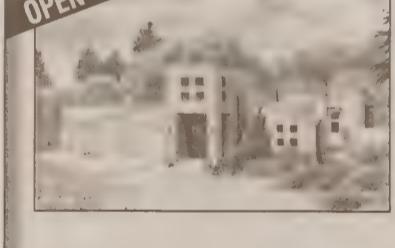
www.OaklandHomeValue.com

Agent: Prudentia C. Y. H.

A sampling of our current listings

 <p>Broadway Hill Stunning panoramic views from both sides of this 2 bed, 2 bath unit. Completely remodeled with custom cabinetry, granite counters, and high-end kitchen appliances. Amenities include 1-car garage parking, 24-hour door person, laundry, pool, club room and storage \$979,000</p>	 <p>Lower Pacific Heights Beautifully remodeled top floor Victorian condo in two unit building with nice city views. Kitchen has granite & butcher block counters, stainless steel appliances, trash compactor, Bosch washer/dryer in unit. Separate dining room. Plantation shutters, refinished hard wood floors, gas fireplace, huge deeded extra storage. \$489,000</p>
 <p>Haight Ashbury Victorian with lots of original details. High ceilings, stained glass, gourmet chef's kitchen, inlaid wood floors. 3bd + Loft, 3 car garage, plus space for office, storage, wine cellar, with 1/2 bath. \$1,149,000</p>	 <p>2241 Market St San Francisco 415-762-9390</p>

OPEN SUN 3/16 1-4



265 CASTLE HILL RANCH

WALNUT CREEK

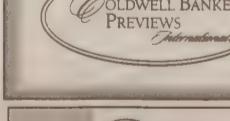
Located in beautiful Walnut Creek, this sophisticated contemporary home is set in a wooded oak studded setting. 3 large bedrooms, 3 full baths. Large kitchen/family room combination with fireplace. 43' swimming pool and outdoor entertainment area. Light, bright rooms. \$1,399,000

JERILYN BABINGTON

COLDWELL BANKER

(925) 253-4601

(510) 547-1615



REPRESENTED BY
ANGELA WEI GRUBB

339.0400/202

awgrubb@grubbc.com

Represented the Seller

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REPRESENTED BY
ANGELA WEI GRUBB

339.0400/215

scott@grubbc.com

Represented the Buyer

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(510) 848-2724
 NakamuraRealty@aol.com

NAKAMURA
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REALTY INC.

2554 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley CA 94704

BERKELEY \$1,250,000
 Opportunity's Knocking at your door!
 Residential income plus
 retail storefront space.
 Lots of new paint, and upgrades
 Property shows very well
 Busy Berkeley location.

BERKELEY \$499,000
 TRIPLEX in two separate buildings
 Prime location facing two streets,
 Duplex and detached cottage.
 Monterey Market/ Acme Bakery/
 Westbrae.
 Ideal deal for Owner occupant
 Call today!

2 HOMES ON 1 LOT!

BERKELEY \$1,000,000
 BERKELEY 6-UNIT APARTMENT
 6-3BD Units. ALL VACANT!
 Owner recently completed lots of
 remodeled type work. Property shows
 extremely well. A real charmer!
 Call us today for information
 on this 6 x 2 beauty!

BERKELEY \$425,000
 Your own Private compound.
 Two spacious 3BD/2BA houses,
 one home Vacant!
 Lots of recent upgrades and paint.
 Live in one home and
 rent the other!
 Look at all the possibilities!

LIVE / INCOME

HAYWARD \$480,000
 Newly available! Hayward.
 Beautiful, and very spacious.
 4BD/2BA home, 2-car garage.
 Near BART, shopping, schools.
 Approx. 12 years young. A real pride
 of ownership home shows excellent!
 Call today. Move-in right away!

BERKELEY \$435,000
 North Berkeley Craftsman.
 1+ BD. home only Minutes
 on foot to BART.
 Detached Garage w/ storage
 Must See!
 Offers seen 1st come
 1st serve.

NEAR BART!!!



OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 5:00

OFFERED AT \$499,000.



727 AND 727 1/2 ALBEMARLE ST, EL CERRITO

Elegant sun-drenched Mediterranean with a charming legal cottage in back. The wisteria is just blooming in the lush established back garden! Wonderful neighborhood, convenient to everything!

HORNWALL
 Properties

Properties

RED OAK REALTY

www.redoakrealty.com

CASTRO VALLEY - NEW LISTING!

4/3 - 2-story home, Master bedroom suite upstairs, Bedroom and bathroom downstairs, bonus room. Nice landscaping. Close to schools.
 19910 Edwin Markham Drive

\$699,000

Open 1-5

BERKELEY

3/2 - Curl up in this magical home, a short distance from Solano & Westbrae shops. Freshly painted, redone hardwoods.

1225 Kalns Avenue

\$489,000

Open 1-4

BERKELEY - NEW LISTING!

2/1 - Lovely 2-story Victorian farmhouse with large yard, built-ins and attic. More photos at www.saragarabedian.com.

921 Bancroft Way

\$389,000

Open 1-3:30 pm

OAKLAND/MONTCLAIR - NEW LISTING!

4/2 - Romantic and secluded with Bay views on a large lot. Delightful kitchen, sunny decks, 2 fireplaces, hot tub, close to town & commute
 5955 Rincon Drive

\$699,000

Open 2-4

ALBANY - NEW LISTING!

3/1 - Sunny Mediterranean. Remodeled kitchen & bath, fireplace, hardwood floors, level rear garden with detached garage & workshop.
 1053 Peralta Avenue

Open 2-4:30

\$589,000

Open 2-4:30

OAKLAND - NEW LISTING!

2/1 - Elegant Colonial Revival with original details. Formal dining room, hardwood floors, fireplace, raised basement. Needs TLC. Probate sale.
 1815 Brandon Street

Open 2-4

\$395,000

Open 2-4

OAKLAND/DOWNTOWN - NEW LISTING!

2/1.5 - Two-story remodeled penthouse condo. New carpet, paint & appliances. Bay views from both levels. 2 garage parking spaces.
 801 Franklin Street #1436

Open 2-4

\$359,000

Open 2-4

OAKLAND - NEW LISTING!

1/1 - Rockridge border. Clean condo newly remodeled with large, private patio & common pool, spa, laundry and garage.
 250 Whitmore Street #111

Open 2-4

\$239,000

Open 2-4

OAKLAND/TEMESCAL - NEW LISTING!

2/2 - Exceptional Near BART, coffee & shops. Sun-drenched, classic, mint-condition with fabulous kitchen, home office, deck, hot tub, more!
 471 44th Street

Open 2-5 pm

\$383,000

Open 2-5 pm

OAKLAND - NEW LISTING!

1/1 - Jazzy 840 sq.ft. loft in historic complex with built-out mezzanine, skylights, vaulted ceilings & more! www.saragarabedian.com
 730 29th Street #C11

Open 2-4 pm

\$229,000

Open 2-4 pm

Sales

FROM PAGE B10

2956 California St - \$430,000
 1709 Derby St - \$420,000
 2614 Etna St - \$945,000
 1236 Milvia St - \$950,000
 1110 Parker St - \$475,000
 1390 Queen St - \$165,000
 2417 Sacramento St - \$352,500
 1643 Scenic Av - \$545,000
 2554 Virginia St - \$901,000
 1401 Walnut St - \$470,000
 1231 Ward St - \$437,500
 3109 Wheeler St - \$440,000

EL CERRITO

538 Elm St - \$325,000
 2231 Spyglass Ln - \$550,000
 312 Victoria St - \$377,000

EL SOBRANTE

4313 Santa Rita Rd - \$365,000

EMERYVILLE

1022 44th St - \$330,000
 8 Captain Dr #E353 - \$252,500
 6363 Christie #2213 - \$352,000
 5855 Horton St #402 - \$485,000
 5855 Horton St #403 - \$30,000
 5855 Horton St #407 - \$330,000
 5855 Horton St #517 - \$315,000
 5855 Horton St #603 - \$230,500
 5855 Horton St #703 - \$262,000
 5855 Horton St #706 - \$230,500
 5855 Horton St #715 - \$350,000
 5855 Horton St #809 - \$595,000

OAKLAND

1734 100th Av - \$280,000
 2968 107th Av - \$315,000
 917 107th Av - \$225,000
 2630 109th Av - \$270,000
 1645 20th Av - \$217,000
 2122 21st Av - \$222,000

1224 32nd St - \$307,500
 827 34th Av - \$375,000
 3854 39th Av - \$495,000
 2074 40th Av - \$325,000
 2116 42nd Av - \$425,000
 714 45th St - \$265,000
 539 47th St - \$305,000
 846 53rd St - \$600,000
 809 54th Av - \$310,000
 622 58th St - \$305,000
 758 61st St - \$545,000
 1169 63rd St - \$305,000
 1082 66th St - \$255,000
 962 70th Av - \$198,000
 2742 75th Av - \$255,000
 2833 75th Av - \$251,000
 1300 78th Av - \$260,000
 2400 82nd Av - \$415,000

1934 87th Av - \$235,000
 1335 93rd Av - \$285,000
 1073 Aileen St - \$475,000
 4728 Allendale Av - \$472,000
 1003 Amito Dr - \$725,000
 5928 Ascot Dr - \$675,000
 5334 Broadway - \$551,000
 3937 Brown Av - \$550,000
 6512 Buena Ventura - \$420,000
 9614 C St - \$300,000
 320 Caldecott #132 - \$245,000
 5760 Chelton Dr - \$595,000
 1421 Comstock Wy - \$350,000
 10591 Creekside Cr - \$280,000
 3311 East 17th St - \$360,000
 2215 East 19th St - \$118,000
 2209 East 22nd St - \$260,000
 1336 East 23rd St - \$360,000

625 El Dorado #207 - \$289,500
 32 Evirel Pl - \$620,000
 5106 Fairhill Ct - \$810,000
 2945 Florida St - \$379,500
 3245 Florida St - \$450,000
 6121 Foothill Bl - \$217,000
 2444 Frances St #2 - \$225,000
 988 Franklin St #323 - \$370,000
 2875 Glascock #101 - \$305,000
 1715 Grand View D - \$1,775,000
 3890 Hanly Rd - \$480,500
 3334 Harrison St - \$375,000
 3510 Harrison St - \$375,000
 5952 Howell St - \$495,000
 375 Jayne Av #207 - \$215,000
 555 Jean St #428 - \$182,000

2707 Kingsland Av - \$388,500
 1774 Leimert Bl - \$806,000
 894 Longridge Rd - \$1,206,000
 2049 Magellan Dr - \$585,000
 185 Marlow Dr - \$410,000
 5878 Moraga Av - \$685,000
 3466 Oak Knoll Bl - \$300,000
 366 Oakland Av - \$440,000
 4401 Penniman Av - \$215,000
 9010 Plymouth St - \$325,000
 2438 Renwick St - \$210,000
 3333 Revere Av - \$419,000
 6432 Salem St - \$466,000
 3224 School St - \$315,000
 8802 Seneca St - \$335,000
 744 South Elmhurst - \$100,000
 856 Sunnyhills Rd - \$685,000

2484 Ta...
 7128 Thom...
 1500 Tucker St
 4556 Tulip...
 2807 Vallejo St
 3816 Van...
 670 Vernon St
 500 Vernon St
 330 Vernon St
 35 Weyland St
 80 Linda Av...
 1111 Wisteria St
 See SALES

Vintage Berkeley Craftsman**1443 Russell Street, Berkeley**

Original details abound in this elegant 2 bedroom 1916 home. Leaded glass, box beam ceilings, built-ins, gracious floor plan, grand fireplace, and country kitchen.

\$385,000**THORNWALL**
Properties

(510) 848-1950 x212

Mary Canavan

★★ NEW ROCKRIDGE LISTING! ★★
Open House - Sunday, March 16, 2003 1-5pm ★★**Rockridge**
5439 Carlton St.
Offered \$619,000**Traditional Craftsman Bungalow**

A charming home with all of the classic detailing you want in a Craftsman Bungalow. This home features 3 bedrooms and 1+ bathrooms. The inviting glass-enclosed front porch greets you as you enter your new home. Once inside you are treated to the wonderful architectural detailing, such as, a craftsman style fireplace, gleaming hardwood floors, tons of Gumwood trim and molding, a beautiful China cabinet, and French doors. There is a fun period style kitchen and a remodeled bathroom. The rooms are spacious with plenty of closet space and the master bedroom includes a half bathroom. There is ample storage in the partial basement with a converted garage space. There are many upgraded and new systems and this home is in great shape.

Located in the Heart of Rockridge close to everything including BART, College Avenue Shops and Restaurants, Casual Carpooling to SF, wonderful local parks, and of course Great Coffee.

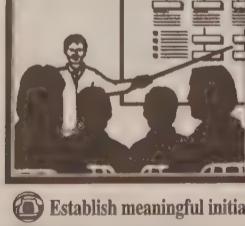
Ron Kriss, Realtor®/Partner
 510-547-5970 Ext 55 ronkriss@jps.net

Online Tour @ www.5439Carlton.com

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- Establish meaningful initial rapport on the phone or face-to-face with prospects.
- Convert a curiosity seekers to solid prospects.
- Generate more quality appointments and close more escrows!
- Managers, establish a unique training format to enhance your agent's communication skills.

Monday, March 17 • 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Berkeley Assn. of REALTORS® Auditorium

1553 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley

Sponsored by: Berkeley Assn. of REALTORS®, American Home Shield

JCP Geologists, Washington Mutual, Hills Newspapers, Contra Costa Times

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Call Jeanne Borden 510.559.8098 x304

REDWOOD HEIGHTS
NEW LISTINGOPEN SUNDAY
MARCH 16**4315 Atlas Ave. • Charming Traditional**

Picture yourself here! Just blocks away from Elementary School this charming home has views of the Hills Temple. Two plus plus bedrooms, 1 plus bath make this a versatile home. Lovely living and dining room, kitchen opens out to private deck and lovely back yard. Kitchen has eating area. Additional space for home office, etc. This very special home is waiting for you!

Offered at \$539,000

Donna Conroy 510-339-4723

Tour at www.donnaconroy.com

The GRUBB Co.

**29 Hillcrest Road, Berkeley**

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Beautiful John Hudson Thomas designed prairie style home in the prestigious Claremont neighborhood. There are 3BR/2BA, sun room, study, formal dining room and large eat-in kitchen. This property is located close to shops & BART. Truly very special!

Offered at \$1,250,000

BEBE MCRAEOFFICE: 652.2133/1015
bmcrae@grubbc.com
 GRUBBCO.COM**Crocker Highlands ~ Open Sunday 2:00 to 5:00**

662 Longridge Road

Offered at \$995,000

**Dolores Thom**(510) 834-2010 Office
 (510) 763-1710 Home office
 (510) 835-6080 Voice MailPrudential
California RealtyVisit my website for further information... & photos
www.doloresthom.com

The GRUBB Co.

Judith Cain
Sold These Crocker Highlands

List Price

991 Sunnyhills Rd.	\$1,025,000
854 Longridge Rd.	\$900,000
869 Trestle Glen Rd.	\$799,000
921 Sunnyhills Rd.	\$789,000
1200 Trestle Glen Rd.	\$719,000
1657 Trestle Glen Rd.	\$715,000
958 Park Lane	\$699,000
744 Calmar Ave.	\$579,000
740 Calmar Ave.	\$565,000
697 Mandana Blvd.	\$549,000
801 Mandana Blvd.	\$559,000

Judith Cain's 2002 -2003 sales activity in Crocker Highlands



New Listing

843 Grosvenor Dr.

Offered at \$1,095,000

**JUDITH CAIN**

BROKER ASSOCIATE

OFFICE: 339.0400/209



101 Beechwood Drive, Claremont Pines

Offered at \$2,495,000

Open Sunday 2-4:30



CAROLYN JONES

A Lifetime of Knowledge and Experience in the East Bay

OFFICE: 652.2133/439

GRUBBCO.COM

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for
Photo Tours
of this and other current listings.

1213 BLAKE ST.
OPEN SUNDAY 1-4:00

Charming Well-maintained
Home With Original
Period Detailing
In A Quiet Centrally
Located Berkeley
Neighborhood

- ◆ 2 Bedrooms
- ◆ Built-ins In Living & Dining Rooms
- ◆ Marble Fireplace
- ◆ Large Yard
- ◆ Patio & Deck
- ◆ Large Kitchen & Dining Nook
- ◆ Laundry Room

OFFERED AT \$425,000

Monica Rohrer (510) 526-5720

monica@lamaisonre.com

JUST LISTED - OPEN SUN 2-4:30



Dian Hymer, CRS

Associate Broker

#1 Agent Oakland/Piedmont Office

510-339-4777

Website: dianhymer.com

706 MANDANA
BOULEVARD
Crocker Highlands

Spacious 3+ bedroom, 1+ bath Craftsman style with large living room, formal dining, country kitchen, breakfast room, recreation room, plus room for home office, sunny terraced yard with patio, fruit trees, garden and lawn.

Offered at \$659,000

COLDWELL
BANKERThe GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

Biggest Little House in Piedmont

PIEDMONT

128 Sunnyside Avenue
A cozy brown shingle with sleek contemporary interior, lush garden, 2 decks, hot tub & hill view. Located near schools, shops & transportation.

Offered at \$699,000



Mavis Delacroix

OFFICE: 339.0400/205

delacroix@grubbc.com

GRUBBCO.COM

Piedmont Opportunity



356 Wildwood Avenue

Four bedroom traditional with matchstick hardwood floors, huge deck area, expansion potential and view. Imagine the possibilities.

Offered at \$918,000

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for
Photo Tours
of these and other current listings.OLDWELL BANKER
PREVIEWS
International

John Hudson Thomas designed home in the "Spring Mansion". Includes 3BR house on approx 3.2 acres. Tennis court, grand

fence, 2 car garage.

Karen Lum 510.981.3036



John Hudson Thomas designed home in the "Spring Mansion". Includes 3BR house on approx 3.2 acres. Tennis court, grand

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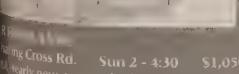
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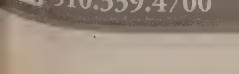
Karen Lum 510.981.3036



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Karen Lum 510.981.3036

COLDWELL BANKER

www.CaliforniaMoves.com... ANY HOUSE, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

ROCKRIDGE
5820 Presley Way
Sun 2 - 4:30
3+ BR 1.5 BA Desired street! 1922 Trad. charm! Graceful LR: FDR & bldst rm; w/built-ins; HWF; lovely FP; 3 Sun Rm; garage level yd. Near BART! Needs some work!

OAKMOR
1916 Oak Crest Dr.
Sun 2 - 5
3+ BR 2 BA Traditional, elegant 1940's home w/style! Updated kitchen, FDR, MBR w/FWP, HWF. Beautiful yard w/outdoor fireplace & hot tub! Great location!

OAKLAND
9867 Burr St.
Sun 1 - 4
6 BR 5 BA- 6 kitchens! Great for extended or multi-families. Needs TLC. Beautiful views & a large yard lend additional features to this property!

BERKELEY
1480 Acton Crescent
Sun 2 - 4
2+ BR 2 BA 1st OPEN! Charming home on unique cul-de-sac. Vaulted ceiling w/raised beams, fp, built-ins, hdwd flrs. DR looks onto lovely garden.

Cheryl Cahn 510.486.1495

OPEN

<div data-bbox="450 2714

Sales

FROM PAGE B12

RICHMOND

640 16th St - \$265,000
 638 19th St - \$350,000
 419 24th St - \$475,000
 329 7th St - \$280,000
 5433 Amend Rd - \$475,000
 2712 Barnard Dr - \$330,000
 2911 Barrett Av - \$385,000
 377 Beck St - \$195,000
 3161 Birmingham Dr #202 - \$216,000
 4891 Buckboard Wy - \$480,000
 5213 Buckboard Wy - \$458,000
 2355 Bush Av - \$244,000
 500 Deer Park Dr - \$483,500
 502 Deer Park Dr - \$447,000
 9 Harbor View Dr - \$560,000
 1421 Hayes St - \$285,000
 1914 Hellings Av - \$292,000
 2450 Homestead Cr - \$450,000
 2722 Humphrey Av - \$210,000
 3039 Joann Dr - \$313,000
 966 McLaughlin St - \$290,000
 814 Meadow View Dr - \$502,000
 1401 Merced St - \$224,000
 2961 Mullens Dr - \$320,000

2616 Ohio Av - \$292,000
 25 Overlook Ln - \$279,000
 6224 Plymouth Av - \$401,000
 631 Rock Rose Wy - \$590,000
 643 Rock Rose Wy - \$546,500
 333 Sanford Av - \$260,000
 1511 Santa Clara St - \$400,000
 46 Seabreeze Dr - \$599,000
 34 Seagull Dr - \$440,000
 8 Seagull Dr - \$452,500
 1518 Visalia Av - \$268,000
 3604 Waller Av - \$250,000
 700 Williams Dr - \$205,000

SAN LEANDRO

1392 145th Av - \$300,000
 1259 Alder Creek Cr - \$549,000
 16083 Berkshires Rd - \$355,000
 428 Caliente Dr - \$257,000
 4046 Carmel Wy - \$378,000
 1935 Dolly Av - \$374,000
 14835 East 14th St #8 - \$270,000
 16782 Ehle St - \$230,000
 340 Garcia Av - \$341,000
 16947 Los Reyes Av - \$350,000
 14240 Nassau Rd - \$380,000
 14388 Outrigger Dr - \$352,000
 1939 Nassau St - \$360,000
 435 Teola Ct - \$604,000
 15488 Tern Ct - \$435,000

2170 Thomas Av - \$365,000
 548 White Fir Dr - \$389,000

SAN LORENZO

1867 Corte Enano - \$320,000
 981 Delano St - \$429,000
 1321 Jacqueline Pl - \$248,000
 15572 Usher St - \$312,500
 1027 Via Palma - \$345,000
 15947 Via Pinale - \$355,000
 17335 Via Rincon - \$280,000

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 13
 LOWEST PRICE: \$120,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$865,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$352,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$404,231.00

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3
 LOWEST PRICE: \$218,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$327,500
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$257,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$267,500.00

See SALES, Page B15

The GRUBB Co.**111 Tamalpais Road, Berkeley**

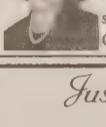
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Historic home in historic neighborhood. First market in 71 years! Home of Ernest Orlando Lawrence, one of the century's most distinguished scientists! There are four levels of beautiful vistas of Codornices Park and the Bay beyond. Nine bedrooms, three and one half baths, beautifully landscaped garden, garage. Within close proximity to Shattuck Ave, shopping and

Offered at \$850,000

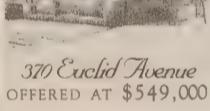
SUSIE SCHEVILL
 OFFICE: 652.2133/444
 sschevill@grubbc.com
 GRUBBCO.COM

*Visit GRUBBCO.COM**I have lots of this and other**things for sale.***The GRUBB Co.****7156 Norfolk Road, Berkeley**

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This beautifully remodeled home features sweeping views of the SF Bay and the Claremont hills! Located on a quiet cul-de-sac this home offers the best of neighborhood living in a most peaceful setting! There are three bedrooms/two baths including a gorgeous master suite with study that opens to deck & spa.

Offered at \$789,000**SUSIE SCHEVILL**

OFFICE: 652.2133/444
 sschevill@grubbc.com
 GRUBBCO.COM

Just Sold!

370 Euclid Avenue
 OFFERED AT \$549,000



3230 Robinson Drive
 OFFERED AT \$649,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER SALES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, AND FOR **BEST RESULTS** IN YOUR NEXT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION, PLEASE CALL ME.

**Kathleen Callahan**

BROKER

510/338-1343

HOME: 510/595-9119

**Open Sunday 1-4**

Single family home 2200 sq. ft. Prestigious new home development. Den downstairs, open loft upstairs, gourmet kitchen, all new appliances. Off street parking for 5 vehicles. Fabulous master suite.

1815 Paru, Alameda**Reduced to \$635,000****Open Sunday 1-4**

Only 3 years old, master suite, big yard, near private park. Excellent Price - Must See!

Single family home.

602 Tern Lane, Alameda**\$478,000**

Victorian 4Plex in Alameda 3 large bedrooms, 2 large bedrooms, 1 large bedroom, spacious studio, tons on parking, recently upgraded electrical and plumbing - near Ballena Bay in Alameda. Phone for Appt today!

1435 5th St., Alameda**\$738,000**

Harbor Bay Home. 2500 sq. ft., 3 levels, Modern Resort style home. 4+ bedrooms/ 3 full baths

305 Carob, Alameda**\$588,000**

Donnalu Williams
 (510) 814-4826
 donnalu@ao.com



SALES • RENTALS • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

2170 Thomas Av - \$365,000
 548 White Fir Dr - \$389,000

SAN LORENZO

1867 Corte Enano - \$320,000
 981 Delano St - \$429,000
 1321 Jacqueline Pl - \$248,000
 15572 Usher St - \$312,500
 1027 Via Palma - \$345,000
 15947 Via Pinale - \$355,000
 17335 Via Rincon - \$280,000

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 13
 LOWEST PRICE: \$120,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$865,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$352,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$404,231.00

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3
 LOWEST PRICE: \$218,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$327,500
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$257,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$267,500.00

See SALES, Page B15

NEW LISTING**111 Tamalpais Road, Berkeley**

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Historic home in historic neighborhood. First market in 71 years! Home of Ernest Orlando Lawrence, one of the century's most distinguished scientists! There are four levels of beautiful vistas of Codornices Park and the Bay beyond. Nine bedrooms, three and one half baths, beautifully landscaped garden, garage. Within close proximity to Shattuck Ave, shopping and

Offered at \$850,000

SUSIE SCHEVILL
 OFFICE: 652.2133/444
 sschevill@grubbc.com
 GRUBBCO.COM

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Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

www.comtr.com

Alameda

\$219,000	219 Cypress	1bd/1ba	\$649,000	924 Broadway	3+bd/2.5ba
Sat & Sun 2-4	510-814-4891	George Muhr	Sat & Sun 2-4	openhomesalameda.com	510-748-1115
Harbor Bay Realty			510-748-1103	Gallagher & Lindsey, John Parten, Signe Nelson	
\$235,000	965 Shorepoint Ct #313	1bd/1ba	\$67,000	1109 Ottis Dr	5+bd/3ba
Sun 2-4	openhomesalameda.com	510-748-1160	Sun 2-4	510-814-4709	Harbor Bay Realty, Marilyn Schumacher
Gallagher & Lindsey	Renate Kohlmann		510-814-4841		
\$249,000	1711 Third	2+bd/1ba	\$675,000	1109 Ottis Dr	5+bd/3bd
Sun 2-4	510-523-1114	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-814-4841	Harbor Bay Realty, Marilyn Schumacher
Harbor Bay Realty	Tere Lee		510-814-4841		
\$279,000	1433 D Morton	2bd/1ba	\$679,000	21 Evans Ct	3bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4818	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-814-4846	Harbor Bay Realty, Janice Payne
Steve Cressy			510-814-4846		
\$315,000	2380 108th Ave	2+bd/1.5ba	\$689,000	927 Fountain	4bd
Sun 2-4	510-814-4873	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-814-4873	Harbor Bay Realty, Janice Payne
Maryann Valentine			510-814-4873		
\$349,000	3028 Alta Vista	2bd/1ba	\$795,000	2943 Southwood Dr	5+bd/2+ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4887	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-823-8555	Ritz Real Estate, George Borikas
Ramon Dumaguin			510-823-8555		
\$355,000	2101 Shoreline #217	2 bd	\$850,000	2985 Northwood Dr	3bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-882-4425	Kane & Associates	Sun 2-4	510-823-4449	Gallagher & Lindsey, Keiko McDonah
Tisa Beebe			510-823-4449		
John Bergman					
\$369,000	2515 Central Ave #104	2bd/2ba	\$859,000	3 Evans Court	4bd/3ba
Sun 2-4	openhomesalameda.com	510-748-1137	Sat & Sun 2-4	510-814-4710	Harbor Bay Realty, Walt Jacobs
Gallagher & Lindsey	Sheila McNeill		510-814-4710		
\$395,000	3234 Adams St	2bd/1ba	\$859,000	356 Anderson	5bd
Sat & Sun 2-4	510-814-4871	Harbor Bay Realty	Sat & Sun 2-4	510-865-0564	Kane & Associates, Lillian Silva
Denise Bowes-Garvine			510-865-0564		
\$399,000	14175 Seagate	3bd/2.5ba	\$869,000	1064 Stannage	2+/-
Sun 2-5	510-737-8670	Prudential CA Realty	Sun 2-4	510-527-2700	Marvin Gardens, Diane Mintz
San Leandro Marina	Bonnie Crow		510-527-2700		
\$409,000	1725 Walnut St	2bd/1ba	\$879,000	1053 Peralta Ave	3 bd/1 ba
Sat & Sun 2-4	openhomesalameda.com	510-748-1125	Sun 2-4	510-280-2177	RED OAK, Merritt Levine
Gallagher & Lindsey	Facita Dilmac		510-280-2177		
\$419,000	450 Cola Ballena #E	2+bd/2BA	\$889,000	1109 College	2bd
2-4:30pm	510-444-5300	Manhattan Real Estate	Sun 2-4	510-522-5827	Bayside Real Estate, Dianna Wyman
			510-522-5827		
\$429,000	535 Palace Ct	2bd/2ba	\$899,000	1224 Marin Ave.	2 ba/1+ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4817	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-226-0889	Marvin Gardens, Diane Mintz
Tim Marr			510-226-0889		
\$435,000	3224 Sterling Ave	3bd/1ba	\$909,000	1053 Peralta Ave	3 bd/1 ba
Sun 2-4	openhomesalameda.com	510-748-1125	Sun 2-4	510-280-2177	RED OAK, Merritt Levine
Gallagher & Lindsey	Troy Staten		510-280-2177		
\$439,000	1520 3rd St.	2bd/1ba	\$909,000	1064 Stannage	2+/-
Sun 2-4	510-814-4885	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-527-2700	Marvin Gardens, Diane Mintz
Jeffrey Goodman			510-527-2700		
\$439,000	812 Height St.	2bd	\$909,000	1224 Marin Ave.	2 ba/1+ba
Sun 2-4	510-522-5827	Bayside Real Estate	Sun 2-4	510-814-4829	Marvin Gardens, Diane Mintz
Dianna Wyman			510-814-4829		
\$441,000	909 San Antonio Ave	2bd/1ba	\$909,000	1064 Stannage	2+/-
Sun 2-4	openhomesalameda.com	510-748-1166	Sun 2-4	510-527-2700	Marvin Gardens, Diane Mintz
510-748-1165	Gallagher & Lindsey, Roland & Coqui		510-527-2700		
Basora or Katherine DuLong					
\$449,000	1109 College	2bd	\$939,000	29 Hillcrest Rd.	3+BD/2BA
Sun 2-4	510-610-5009	Kane & Associates	Sun 2-4	510-652-2133	The Grubbs Co., Bebe McRae
Sally Han			510-652-2133		
\$449,000	152 Centre Court	2BD/2.5BA	\$939,000	2725 Prince #9	2 Bd/1 Ba
Sun 2-4	510-521-1177	Windermere Properties, East Bay, Peter Fletcher	Sun 2-4	510-868-1400	Prudential, Chris Nederseen
			510-868-1400		
\$449,000	1541 C Santa Clara	2+bd/2ba	\$949,000	1476 Tenth St.	2 Bd/1 Ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4714	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-5	510-849-9900	Marinou Nouveau
Barbara Bolton			510-849-9900		
\$449,900	917 Centennial	2bd/2ba	\$949,000	1410 Derby Street	2 Bd/1 Ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4829	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-339-8400	Montclair Better Homes, Patricia Bennett.com
Margaret Lomba			510-339-8400		
\$453,800	603 Centre Court	2bd	\$949,000	1428 Ward St	2 BD/2BA
Sat & Sun 2-4	510-864-2024,	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-845-0211	Prudential, Chris Nederseen
510-337-9413	Kane & Associates, David Gunderman		510-845-0211		
Alan Lortzman					
\$455,000	1846 Eight Street	3bd	\$949,000	2725 Prince #9	2 Bd/1 Ba
Sun 2-4:30	510-865-2800	Bayside Real Estate, Lisa Lawley	Sun 2-4	510-868-1400	Prudential, Chris Nederseen
			510-868-1400		
\$455,000	1846 Eight Street	3bd	\$949,000	2725 Prince #9	2 Bd/1 Ba
Sun 2-4:30	510-865-2800	Bayside Real Estate, Lisa Lawley	Sun 2-4	510-868-1400	Prudential, Chris Nederseen
			510-868-1400		
\$459,000	1211 Broadway	2bd	\$949,000	2725 Prince #9	2 Bd/1 Ba
Sun 2-4	510-865-2800	Bayside Real Estate, Lisa Lawley or Denise Brady	Sun 2-4	510-868-1400	Prudential, Chris Nederseen
			510-868-1400		
\$459,000	19 Maitland	3bd	\$949,000	2725 Prince #9	2 Bd/1 Ba
Sun 2-4	510-522-0660	Kane & Associates	Sun 2-4	510-868-1400	Prudential, Chris Nederseen
Elizabeth Kane			510-868-1400		
\$464,500	232 Santa Clara Ave	2bd/1ba	\$949,000	1215 Burnett	3 Bd/1.5
Sa & Sun 2-4	510-814-4892	Harbor Bay Realty, Eunice Edwards, Marilyn Pomery	Sun 2-4	510-527-2700	Montclair Better Homes, Patricia Bennett.com
			510-527-2700		
\$465,000	2019 Encinal Ave	3bd/2ba	\$949,000	1245 Sacramento St	2 Bd/1 Ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4893	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-538-3464	Miller & Company, Mimi Miller
Kathy Bell-Mathy			510-538-3464		
\$478,000	602 Tern Lane	3bd/2.5ba	\$949,000	1218 Parker St.	2 Bd/1 Ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4826	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-527-2700	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Donnacul Williams			510-527-2700		
\$479,000	137 Parfait Lane	2bd/2ba	\$949,000	1443 Russell...	2 Bd/1 Ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4854	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Donnacul Williams			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	603 Santa Clara	3bd/2ba	\$949,000	1215 Burnett	3 Bd/1.5
Sun 2-4	510-814-4845	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-527-2700	Montclair Better Homes, Patricia Bennett.com
			510-527-2700		
\$489,000	1225 Kains Ave	3bd/2.5ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4826	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1026 Taylor Ave	3bd/2.5ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4:30	510-511-2274	Kane & Associates	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Wendy Sanda			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1130 High	3bd/1ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4878	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Karin Fox			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	603 Santa Clara	3bd/2ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4845	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1026 Taylor Ave	3bd/2.5ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4:30	510-511-2274	Kane & Associates	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Wendy Sanda			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1130 High	3bd/1ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4878	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Karin Fox			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	603 Santa Clara	3bd/2ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4845	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1026 Taylor Ave	3bd/2.5ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4:30	510-511-2274	Kane & Associates	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Wendy Sanda			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1130 High	3bd/1ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4878	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Karin Fox			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	603 Santa Clara	3bd/2ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4845	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1026 Taylor Ave	3bd/2.5ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4:30	510-511-2274	Kane & Associates	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Wendy Sanda			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1130 High	3bd/1ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4878	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Karin Fox			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	603 Santa Clara	3bd/2ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4845	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1026 Taylor Ave	3bd/2.5ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4:30	510-511-2274	Kane & Associates	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Wendy Sanda			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1130 High	3bd/1ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4878	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Karin Fox			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	603 Santa Clara	3bd/2ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4845	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1026 Taylor Ave	3bd/2.5ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4:30	510-511-2274	Kane & Associates	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Wendy Sanda			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1130 High	3bd/1ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4878	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Karin Fox			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	603 Santa Clara	3bd/2ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4845	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1026 Taylor Ave	3bd/2.5ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4:30	510-511-2274	Kane & Associates	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Wendy Sanda			510-849-9900		
\$489,000	1130 High	3bd/1ba	\$949,000	1225 Kains Ave	3 Bd/2.5ba
Sun 2-4	510-814-4878	Harbor Bay Realty	Sun 2-4	510-849-9900	Berkley Hill Properties, Mary Canavan
Karin Fox			510-849-9900		

Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

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Oakland		Oakland		Pleasant Hill		Richmond	
1536 Fernwood Drive Montclair Co., Steve Michaelides (510)339-0400	3+BD/2BA	\$845,000 1049 Hubert Rd Sun 1:30-4:30 Crocker Highland 2010	3 Bd/1.5 5 10 - 8 3 - 4	\$995,000 662 Longridge Rd Sun 2-5 Crocker Highlands 2010	4 Bd./3 Ba. 5 10 - 8 3 - 4	\$518,000 79 Matisse Court Sat & Sun 2-5 Prudential Ca Realty	3+bd/2.5 ba 510-337-8670 Debbie King
87 Templar Pl. Rockridge New Estate, C. Boyle, H. Danhakil (510)339-6460	3BD/2.5BA	Prudential California Realty, Jackie Care \$849,000 5882 Ascot ... Sun 1-5 Montclair 510-428-0900 Prudential, Scott T.	4 Bd./3.5	\$999,000 6350 Contra Costa Rd. Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge Wells & Bennett Realtors, Pedram Karbassi	4BD/4BA	\$365,000 1515 Liberty St Sun 2-4 510-662-8487 Security Pacific, Jamie Lake	2 Bd./1 Ba. 510-527-8777
9576 Birch Ct. Elk Grove (510)428-0900	2 Bd./2 Ba.	\$865,000 830 Calmar Ave Sun 1-4:30 510-868-1400 Prudential CA, Stephanie Jones	5+/3.5	\$2,900,000 24 Moraga Via Open Sun. 1-4 925-253-4601/510-547-1615 Coldwell Banker, Jerilynn Babington	4 Bd./4 Ba. 510-527-8777	\$495,000 630 Norwell Agent/Jeanne	4BD/1BA 510-527-8777
280 Lakeside Drive #303 Lake Merritt Co., Real Estate, Tom Erwin (510)339-9900	3bd/2ba	\$865,000 830 Calmar Ave Sun 1-4:30 510-868-1400 Prudential, Stephanie Jones	5+ Bd./3.5	\$305,000 1655 Ascot Dr #4 Sun 2-4:30 510-339-9240 Prudential-Montclair, Erik Johnson	2 Bd./2 Ba.	\$499,000 727 Albemarle St Sun 2-5 510-848-1950 X246 Thornwall Properties, Janice Maupin	2 Bd./1 Ba. 510-337-8670 Debbie King
7156 Norfolk Rd. Claremont Hills Co., Sue Sussville (510)339-0400	3+BD/2BA	\$895,000 91 Glen Ave. 2BD/2BA Sun 1-4 PIEDMONT AVE 510-655-2933 For Sale By Owner		\$1,175,000 165 Woodland Way Sun 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands 510-631-7000 x238 Wells & Bennett Realtors, Patsy Buhler	4BD/1.5BA (510) 339-0400	\$499,000 806 Galvin Dr. Sun 2-5 510-527-2700 X32 Marvin Gardens, Richard Morrison	4 Bd./2 Ba. 510-527-8777
722 Rand Ave. Grand Lake - 510-834-2010 California Realty, Shirley Covington	trpx	\$899,000 629 Trestle Glen Rd. Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-338-1368 Wells & Bennett Realtors, Patsy Buhler	4BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700	\$629,000 155 Lake Avenue Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-428-0900 Prudential, Dale Higgins	4BD/1.5BA 510-339-4700	\$336,000 2203 Sea Shell Dr Sun 2-4 gallagherandlindsey.com 877-965-2279 Gallagher & Lindsey	2bd/2.5ba 510-339-9290 Michael Studebaker
3205 Holymood Dr. Montclair Co., Jeffrey Neidelman (510)339-4700	3 Bd./2 Ba.	\$899,000 7455 Woodrow Dr. Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-338-1368 Pacific Union Real Estate, Ashley O'Neill	3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700	\$848,000 225 Ricardo... Sun 2-4:30 510-428-0900 Prudential, Dale Higgins	2BR/1BA 510-339-4700	\$340,000 2411 Andrade. Sun 2-4 510-691-3853 Security Pacific, Kathy Casares	2bd/2.5ba 510-339-9290 Michael Studebaker
11710 Crawford Way Montclair, George Milliron (510)339-2250	4 Bd./3 Ba	\$910,000 1830 Grand View Dr. Sun 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands 510-338-1329 Pacific Union Real Estate, Jeanine Weller	2+BD/2+BA 510-339-4700	\$925,000 5820 Presley Way Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker, Karen Lum	3 Bd./1.5 Ba. 510-339-4700	\$359,000 5444 Sacramento Ave Sun. 2-4:30 Richmond Annex 510/339-8400 Montclair Better Homes, PatriciaBennett.com	2 Bd./1 Ba. 510/339-8400
5955 Girvin Road Hedmont Pines Co., Angela Wei Grubb (510)339-0400	4BD/3.5BA	\$925,000 5820 Presley Way Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker, Karen Lum	3 Bd./1.5 Ba. 510-339-4700	\$969,000 7112 Westmoreland Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Hills 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker, David Eckert	4 Bd./3.5 Ba. 510-339-4700	\$389,000 5601 Van Fleet Sun 2-4 510-848-0900 Prudential, Glass/Sabine	2+1/ Ba. 510-848-1950 X223 Thornwall Properties, Selma Klett
12 Buena Vista Pl. Rockridge (Upper) Co., Ruby Ng (510)339-4700	2 Bd./3 Ba.	\$969,000 7112 Westmoreland Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Hills 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker, David Eckert	4 Bd./3.5 Ba. 510-339-4700	\$949,000 116 El Cerrito. Sun 2-4:30 510-428-0900 Prudential, Glass/Sabine	5++/4 Ba	\$485,000 450 Cola Balaena #D Sun 2-4:30 510-339-9290 Prudential-Montclair, Gene Boomer	3+2+ 510-749-0235 Anita Wong

Where is your dream home?

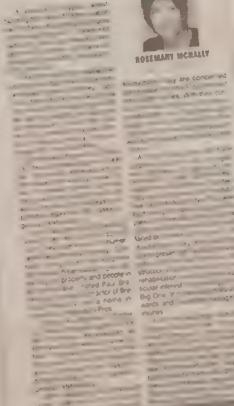
Real Estate & Home

Friday, September 14, 2001

Focus on the East Bay real estate scene

to The Alameda Journal
Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate market with our weekly home sales report. **Open Home Guide** See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B8]

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for the inevitable 'Big One'



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Northbrae



Great Opportunity in Kensington!



4BD/3BA Main House & Stunning 1BD Cottage - Both w/Views!

Splendid home with glowing open spaces, magnificent kitchens & fabulous gardens! 2 great homes on 1 Kensington lot. 4BD/3BA main house features Bay views - 1BD rear is fully featured view home as well, beautifully finished & an ideal rental, grand in-law or luxurious home office. **\$995,000**

Coming Soon - Sunny Glenview

Special duplex with two 1-bedroom units. Each unit has hardwood floors, fireplace, dishwasher and garage. The large, sunny yard has fruit trees and a garden. This property is perfect for owner/occupants or income property.

Call for details.

www.northbrae.com

Northbrae Properties • 526-4336

1600 Hopkins Street • Berkeley • 94707

Sequoia Highlands Beauty!



OPEN SUN 2-4:30

10455 Royal Oak Rd.
This Sequoia Highlands Beauty will 'WOW' you upon entering. 3bd/3ba, Fam Rm, Bonus Rm, Vaulted Lvrn Ceiling, 2Fpls, and more!!! Call Georgia for Details!

Offered at \$690,000

Sweeping View!



This Desirable A-Model End-Unit is situated in the Quiet Oakland Hills Planned Community of Sequoia Heights.

Mountain View OPEN SUN 2-4:30

2bd/2ba, Brick Fpl, Fm Rm

Call Maggie or Georgia for Details!

Offered at \$435,000

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IMMACULATE HOME IN MAXWELL-PH
4427 Virginia Avenue • \$339,000



OPEN SUNDAY
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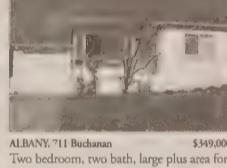
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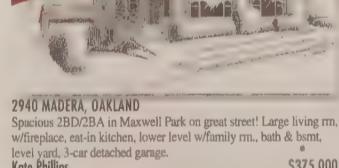


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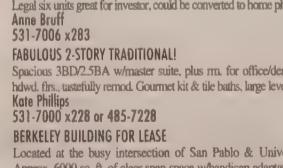
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SPORTS

• Friday, March 14, 2003 •

Section C

Cerrito holds off Burlingame

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

to post players Jerrick Owens-Murphy (12 points), Russell Murphy (10 points) and Brandon Jernigan (eight points).

The Gauchos scored 12 points off offensive putbacks in the game and made 10 of 12 free throws in the fourth quarter alone.

"The tempo was favoring Burlingame, and they were hitting their shots pretty well," El Cerrito coach Brent Daniels said. "The kids did a good job of not letting their run affect our play. We knew we had to get it inside."

Burlingame's Drew Shiller hit four 3-pointers and Brad Smith one in the fourth to keep the Panthers (22-10) in it.

El Cerrito led just 54-53 with 35 seconds left.

Coming out of a timeout, Murphy found Joseph Fort alone under the basket. Fort converted the

shot, was fouled by Burlingame's Ryan Ward and made the free throw to seal it, 57-53, with 19.6 seconds remaining.

Owens-Murphy said Davis' hot shooting against Burlingame's zone defense in the first half opened things up inside for El Cerrito in the second half.

"He's our guy from (3-point territory), but Tita's kind of been off the last two games," Owens-Murphy said. "We had to try to get him in the flow in the first half. Once he jump-started us, they went to a box-and-one (zone), and we were able to get it to the post."

The furthest El Cerrito has advanced in the postseason was in 1999, when the Gauchos lost to Washington-Edison in the Division III state final.

Berkeley 56, Lincoln-S.F. 48:

Just days after a disappointing loss in the North Coast Section title game, the Yellow Jackets (25-5) bounced back in a Division I game to eliminate the host

Mustangs (21-12) at Kezar Pavilion for Berkeley's deepest foray into the CIF tournament since 1978.

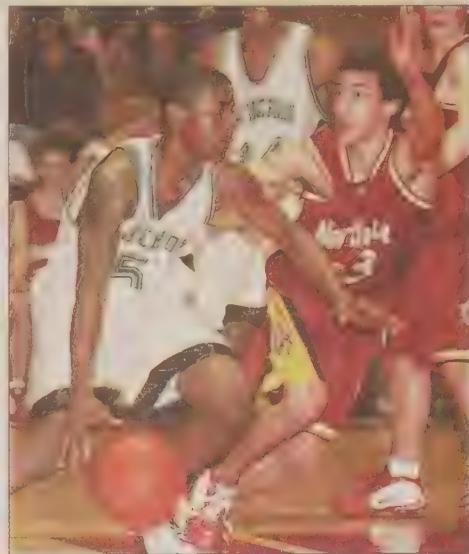
Khion Tate led the Yellow Jackets with 11 points on the night, while Shaun Burl, Jack McSweeney and Nate Simmons each scored nine points, presenting yet another balanced attack by the Berkeley offense.

Defensively, the tandem of Tate and Kenneth Alexander shut down the fourth-seeded Mustangs' duo of Marques Benjamin and Igor Fishbeyn, the two Yellow Jackets held their opponents to a combined eight points.

"They did a great job of taking away the inside game," Berkeley coach Mike Gragnani said of Tate and Alexander. "I'm proud of the defense they played. They were a big spark and they played tough offensively and defensively."

The Yellow Jackets' offense

See BOYS, Page 2



DOUG DURAN/STAFF

EL CERRITO HIGH'S Patrick Mitchell, left, drives to the basket in his team's NCS Championship game against Northgate.

COL. NOTEBOOK

There's no
ring down
Lakeley

Orlando Molina
STAFF WRITER
HAVE COME as no
rise, but the feat is no
spectacular. The Berke-
ley School girls basketball
team off an astounding
consecutive North Coast
Division I crown last
year after beating James
Madison 44-31.

For the most part, it was
the usual suspects rack-
ing up points, starting with
Wright.

Wright, who led the team in
scoring by averaging 13.6
points in the regular
season, came up big at NCS
with the likes of Northgate's
Brown and Joy
Wright, who followed with 24 points
in the same span.

Rolling past the likes of
Northgate (68-53) in the

ACCAL, Page 2

NOTEBOOK

stance
the head
tival

Scott Strain
STAFF WRITER

FIFTH ANNUAL BAY
SEA DISTANCE FESTI-
VAL will be held today
at 3:30 p.m. at Pied-
mont High School.

It will showcase
the finest running tal-
ents in California — with several
states being state and
champions in both

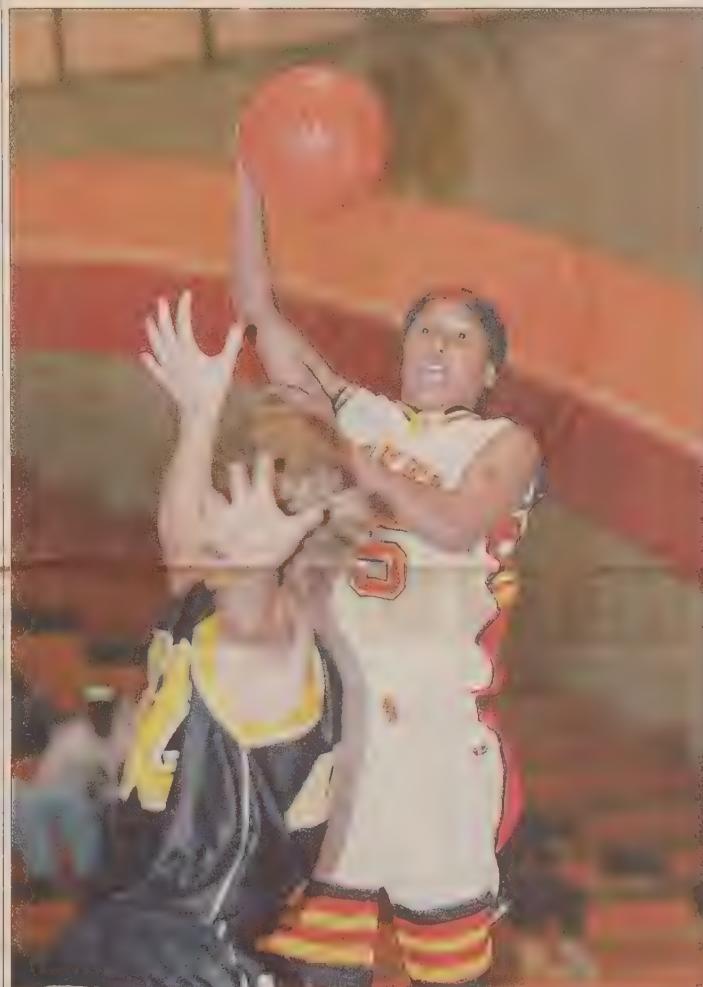
country and track. More
schools and 700 run-
ners entered in this year's
with the first heat of
1,600 meters set for
4 p.m.

Times to be contested
3,200 meters, 1,600
meters and 800 meters — hence
"Distance." The heats
with the fastest run-
ners in each of the
events.

Participants in this year's
and Naomi
Piedmont, Corinne
and Yogi Reichert of
and Alex Ensooe of

and winners

BSAL, Page 2



EDDIE LEDESMA/TIMES

BERKELEY'S DANESHA WRIGHT "does so many things well in a small package," according to coach Gene Nakamura.

Berkeley has its own answer in sophomore guard Wright

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER

Danesha Wright's favorite

NBA player is Allen Iverson.

That's not surprising, since the two have games that resemble each other. Like Iverson, the 5-foot-2 Wright regularly drives against taller players and finds a way to get off her shot with impressive results. She also isn't afraid to battle for rebounds inside the key.

Wright, a Berkeley High school sophomore who wasn't a starter when this season began, has become The Answer for Berkeley at the point guard position.

"Danesha is unique in that she is a great rebounder as far as a playmaker and shooter," Berke-

ley coach Gene Nakamura said. "She does so many things well in a small package."

Berkeley advanced to the California Interscholastic Federation Division I Northern regional semifinal game Thursday against Laguna Creek-Elli Grove. The game took place after the West County Weekly's press time. A win would put Berkeley in the NorCal final at 6 p.m. Saturday at Arco Arena.

Wright led the Yellow Jackets in scoring during the regular season with a 13.6 points per game average.

"She's got some very deceiving moves and has almost a driving floater that's very hard to defend because she gets it off so quickly, plus she knows how to

put spin on the basketball," Nakamura said. "She can make some incredible shots. She can go away from you and hit a backboard shot that you can't get to. She uses the angles well."

One of her great assets is her speed.

"Once she puts her hands on the ball, it's hard to defend her," Nakamura said. "We're trying to use her quickness to try to penetrate. She can create a lot of mismatches."

Wright's offensive strategy against taller players is straightforward.

"I just attack the big people and try to foul them out of the game so we can win," she said.

See WRIGHT, Page 2

It's showtime

■ On St. Patrick's Day the Black Brothers cater their traditional musical offerings for the "once-a-year Irish." Page C3

Music from the Emerald Isle

■ On St. Patrick's Day the Black Brothers cater their traditional musical offerings for the "once-a-year Irish." Page C3

Media Notes

■ Broadcasters have turned away from offering commentaries for fear of offending viewers, advertisers. Page C3

the bovine?

first's production "The Great
Cow" takes the stage in Oakland.

Arts

Irish voices to soar for St. Patrick

By Brian Kluepfel

CORRESPONDENT

"A lot of our music is quiet, contemplative music," said Shay Black, the eldest son of one of Ireland's most musical families. "We like to play the Freight & Salvage on St. Patrick's Day because we don't like the screaming pubs and the green beer everywhere."

Black and his brothers Michael and Martin, appear at the Berkeley coffeehouse on March 17, concluding their infrequent touring schedule. While Michael lives in San Francisco and Shay in Berkeley, Martin still resides in Dublin, Ireland, where the musical siblings, including well-known sisters Mary and Frances, were raised.

The musical tradition was strong on both sides of the family; father Kevin was a fiddler from Rathlin Island off the Antrim coast, while mother Patti was a dancer and singer in the Dublin ballroom scene. The young brothers often traveled in County Wicklow and the countryside, where they were as apt to sing a John Denver or Leonard Cohen song as they were a local ballad.

"We've always been attracted to songs that have stories, ones with a strong narrative," said Shay Black. The family has recorded three albums together, and the three brothers one. It's not flash instrumental wizardry that you'll hear at a Black Brothers show, but rather the power of the voices themselves.

"The sessions that we grew up with were mainly singing sessions," Shay explained. "We regard ourselves primarily as singers. I play guitar, some keyboard, but I prefer to sing. Michael plays banjo and Martin plays fiddle, but I'm more of a rhythm musician."

They learned the love of song at home. "My father would have hooleys at the house, he would go around and ask — one person might sing a song, another might play a tune," Shay said.

He gives equal credit to his mother's influence. "She was always singing to us," he said.

It was in the pubs around Kelly's Corner, North Dublin, that the brothers also learned some of their songs, including a local number of two centuries' standing called The Bleeding Horse.

"Just going around, you would



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
THE BLACK BROTHERS
(from left: Shay, Michael, Martin)
will appear at the Freight & Salvage Coffee house on St. Patrick's Day.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: The Black Brothers St. Patrick's Day concert

WHERE: The Freight & Salvage Coffee House, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley (San Pablo)

WHEN: Monday, March 17. Doors open 7:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m.

TICKETS: \$17.50 advance, \$18.50 day of show

INFO: www.thefreight.org, 510-548-1761

ing fiddlers, guitarists and accordions. Their instrumental sets are occasionally interjected with a short set of a capella singing, for example, Shay Black singing "Molly Malone." (The family tradition lives on: his 3-year-old daughter Seosain — Shosi — brought the house down with her interpretation of the song last year.)

Less frequently he'll burst into a true rabblerouser like "The British Army," with its derogatory references to the English troops' presence in Ireland. But that's the exception rather than the rule, and it also holds true for St. Patrick's Day.

The once-a-year Irish expect loud rebel songs played at a pace with everybody gettin' drunk," Shay said. "That's not what we do."

Once a year, however, they bend to the will of the crowd. "We have a little session in the Mission District in a place called the 3300 Club, and we will sing anything there," said Shay.

"Danny Boy," "Wearing of the Green," if you ask it, we will sing it. That is our acknowledgment of American Irish music. We like doing that, but it's not part of our regular concert gig."

After all this time, a sibling rivalry has yet to surface amongst the brothers. "Surprisingly not!" Shay said. "We jockey for position musically, you know. I'll do the harmony, no you can't do the harmony, that's my harmony. But that's as much as we argue about things."

So if you'd like to hear some Irish music — and perhaps a sea shanty, Scottish, English or Canadian tune — but avoid the green beer, then the Freight & Salvage is the place to go on St. Patrick's Day.

Brian Kluepfel is a freelance journalist who has lived in the 'burbs, the Bronx, Bolivia and Berkeley. He can be reached at bkluepfel@hotmail.com.

EVENTS

STAGE

ALTARENA PLAYHOUSE — "Over the River and Through the Woods" by Joe DiPietro, closing March 22. A hit comedy about a young man whose decision about his future sparks an eruption of unsolicited advice, matchmaking, meddling and unending food from his four Italian-American grandparents. \$12 general; \$9 seniors and students. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; March 16, 2 p.m.; 1409 High Street Alameda. 510-523-1553 or www.altarena.org

BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE — "Fraulein Else" by Francesca Faridany, through March 28. Adapted from a 1921 novella by Viennese writer Arthur Schnitzler, this is the world premiere of the play about a young, beautiful and witty woman who runs into terrible trouble while vacationing at an Italian spa. \$38 to \$54 general; \$19 to \$27 seniors and students; \$20 under age 30. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-847-2949 or www.berkeleyrep.org

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF INTEGRALE STUDIES — "Praises for the World: A Celebration of Music, Dance and Words," March 22, 7 p.m. Join authors Alice Walker, Gloria Steinem and 50 others for a community concert involving spoken word, dance and song in honor of peace. \$50 to \$30, post-party \$25. Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. 415-575-6175 or www.edgeofwonder.com

CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL — "Gaius Bellissima," March 22, 8 p.m. An elegant evening inspired by all things Italian is taking place to benefit the Cal Shakes Annual Fund and the Theatre's Artistic Learning Initiative. The evening includes live and silent auctions, dinner, cocktails, dancing and live music from Steve Lucky and the Rumba Bums. \$175 to \$250. The Historical Rotunda Building, Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-548-3422, ext. 125 or www.calshakes.org

EIGHTH STREET STUDIO THEATRE — "Oedipus Rex" adaptation by Nicholas Rudall, through March 30. Featuring the cast of Shotgun Players and guest performers from Darvag this is a soulful translation of the famous Greek drama. \$18 general, \$12 seniors and students, \$20 opening night with reception; \$10 Thursdays Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m. 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-704-6210 or www.shotgunplayers.org

IMPACT THEATRE — "Scab" by Sheila Callaghan, through April 5. The story of Anima, who is falling in love with her roommate and best friend, Christa. Meanwhile, Christa is secretly sleeping with Anima's ex-boyfriend. \$15 general; \$10 seniors and students. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; La Vela's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid St., Berkeley. 510-464-4468 or www.impacttheatre.com

JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS — "First International Cittone Celebration," March 14 and March 15, 8 p.m. Si Amma, with humor and strong convictions, raises awareness about the situation of women and children in Sierra Leone. She is joined by dancers, singers and drummers in this fund raiser by Global Women Intact. \$18 to \$25 sliding scale. 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542 or 925-798-1300 or www.juliamorgan.org

LA PENA — "Confessions of a Cha Cha Feminist" by Maria Elena Fernandez, March 15, 8 p.m. In celebration of Women's History Month, Maria Elena Fernandez's one-woman show focuses on her rebellion from a Mexican upbringing as a fervent feminist in a comedy setting. \$12. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org

THEATREFIRST — "The Great Celestial Cow" by Sue Townsend, March 14 through April 6. A humorous and touching story of a family emigrating from India to England in the 1970s.

\$16 to \$19 general; \$3 off for students, seniors; half-price for under 25; March 20 pay-what-you-can. Oakland YWCA, 1515 Webster, Oakland. 510-436-5085 or www.theatrefirst.com

TRANSPARENT THEATER — "The Rehearsal" by Mark Chappell and Alan Connor Hamilton, through March 23. The audience is brought into the making of an obscure fictional Hungarian play titled "The Ear." \$20 general; pay-what-you-can Sunday, Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-883-0305 or www.transparenttheater.org

WILDE IRISH PRODUCTIONS — "The Importance of Being Oscar" by Michael mac Liamoir, closing March 23. A theatrical journey through Oscar Wilde's life. \$8 to \$20. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7287 or 510-558-1381 or www.wildeirish.org

ZELLERBACH PLAYHOUSE — "Marisol" by Jose Rivera, closing March 16. Marisol is a story of desire, struggle and redemption with the world in chaos and New York City in complete anarchy. Post performance discussion with the playwright on March 8. \$14 general; \$8 seniors and students. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. Zellerbach Playhouse, University of California, Bancroft Way and Dana Street, Berkeley. (866) 468-3399 or <http://theater.berkeley.edu>

POPULAR MUSIC

ASHKENAZ — Dance Floor Amour with Brass Monkey Brass Band, March 14, 8:30 p.m. \$15.

See THEATER, Page C5

'Celestial Cow' treats immigrants' challenge



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

THE GREAT Celestial Cow," opening tonight at TheatreFIRST, has one of those attention-grabbing titles that simply can't stand there naked without a cloak of further explanation.

No, it's not the story of those "Got milk?" ads. No, it's not a play about those chatty and insouciant bovines hustling heavenly California cheese.

Take it from director Clive Chafner, this U. S. premiere of Sue Townsend's play — while as humorous as the name suggests — is the "moving story of a family emigrating from India to England in the 1970s."

It's a timely theme and well suited for playing in the ethnically diverse Bay Area. Many of the issues faced by the Prakash family 30-odd years ago are still alive for immigrants in our communities as they strive to overcome cultural and traditional barriers.

Townsend is best known for her comic novels. But in the '70s she was also writing plays and, like her contemporaries Caryl Churchill and David Hare, was collaborating with the Joint Stock Company. Unlike Churchill's and Hare's work, however, Townsend's plays have remained largely undiscovered outside the United Kingdom, Chafner says.

For this show, TheatreFIRST is back in its familiar venue, the architecturally interesting YWCA, 1515 Webster St., in downtown Oakland.

"The Great Celestial Cow" plays at 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and at 3



CONTRA COSTA COLLEGE students in the Young Actors Workshop at Contra Costa College rehearse "Adventures in Terrafera." They are, from left: Matt Little, Michael Moran, Anna Smith and Heather Dickinson.

p.m. Sundays through April 6. Tickets for Thursdays and Sundays are \$16; for Fridays and Saturdays, \$19. Seniors, students and TBA members pay \$3 less, and tickets are half-price for those under 25. On March 20, pay what you can. Call 510-436-5085.

NOT SEX? HAH! Speaking of play names, here's another one that doesn't tell exactly what's afoot.

There's a line in "Scab," Impact Theatre's current offering at La Val's Subterranean, to the effect that, "It's not about sex. It's not." A more accurate and useful denial would be, "It's not really about a scab. It's not

about a strikebreaker in those gritty, fist-raising proletarian WPA diatribes of the '30s."

It's unfortunate if this unpleasant title — arresting as it may be — is a turn-off. Sheila Callaghan's intricately woven work takes a penetrating look at two female graduate students whose lives become entangled in unexpected ways.

It's a thoughtful tale, darkly comic, intensely personal and worthy of Impact's innovative productions.

A minor incident serves to bring in the symbolic scab. Anna, played by Alyssa Bostwick, cuts her hand. Her new roommate, Christa, in Emily

Klein's fine debut performance with Impact Theatre, binds the scab. But there's more than the binding of a whiskey-induced cut going on here.

Christa is binding herself in an emerging love relationship with Christa who is sleeping with Anna's ex-boyfriend Alan (Noah James Butler). The psychic wounds will scab over. The spiritual scarring will remain.

The well-chosen cast also includes Pete Caslavka and Eleanor Scott in multiple roles. Particularly hilarious is their appearance (with Bostwick) as a trio of snooty academic co-

See THEATER, Page C5

THOUGHTS — Michael Krasny, KALIF-FM's highly regarded host, has a funny take on the recent news from Iraq. You'd know that from watching

the newscasts here.

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NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Mary F. Polis, Times; Robert W. Butler, Christine Dolen and Chris Hewitt, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Glenn Lovell, Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Christy Lemire, Ben Nuckols, Malcolm Ritter and Matt Wolf, Associated Press; Bruce Westbrook, Houston Chronicle; Jan Stuart, Newsday; Stephen Holden, Dave Karger, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott and Lawrence Van Gelder, New York Times; Evan Henserson, Valerie Kuklenski, Fred Shuster, Bob Strauss and Glenn Whipple, Los Angeles Daily News; Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Taran, Los Angeles Times; Nancy Churnin, Gary Dowell, Charles Ealy, Tom Maurostad, Chris Vognar, Matt Weitz and Philip Wunch, Dallas Morning News; Christopher Kelly and Robert Philpot, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; Jay Boyer, Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Balata, Sacramento Bee; Ann Hornaday and Stephen Hunter, Washington Post.

"ABOUT SCHMIDT": If you love Jack Nicholson, seeing Alexander Payne's ("Election") dark and rather mournful comedy should be high on your list. It features the actor in a state of mind in which we rarely see him: vulnerable, soul-searching and compromising in a way ordinary people must often be. He is Nebraska Warren Schmidt, recently retired and widowed, and realizing how futile his life has been. Only one means to salvation: Stop his daughter (Hope Davis) from marrying a doofus waterbed salesman (Dermot Mulroney). — M. Polis. (R: language and

brief nudity.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. A

"ADAPTATION": This latest collaboration from director Spike Jonze and screenwriter Charlie Kaufman, the "Being John Malkovich" team, is a heady, happy jumble of thought and storytelling, an insane comic undertaking that ultimately coheres into a sane and breathtakingly creative film. Ostensibly, it's about adapting Susan Orlean's book, "The Orchid Thief," to film, with Nicolas Cage doing double duty as the tortured screenwriter and his more successful twin brother. Add to this Meryl Streep as the author, doing shockingly un-Steppenwolf things, and an Oscar-worthy performance by Chris Cooper ("Lone Star"). — M. Polis. (R: language, sexuality, some drug use and violent images.) 1 hour, 52 minutes. A

"ALL THE REAL GIRLS": A small-town playboy (Paul Schneider) is reformed by falling in love with his best friend's little sister (Zoeey Deutch). Director David Gordon Green, who had a critical hit with his first feature, "George Washington," seems to be suffering from second novel syndrome, as he revisits the same stylistic territory, but with a story that demands a different, less pretentiously artistic, dirty mood. Movies about love, lust and infidelity should not make you sleepy. Deutch is very good, though; the movie is worth seeing, if only for her. — M. Polis. (R: language and sexuality.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. C+

"BIKER BOYZ": This film looks like "The Fast and the Furious" on two wheels, with its growling engines,

Cuisinart-style editing and bootyllicious women in skintight clothes. Unfortunately, it is neither fast nor furious as it meanders through a series of minor brawls and races leading up to the Big Event. Derek Luke is Kid, a teenager who's itching to race but must bide his time as a "prospect" in the Black Knights motorcycle club. His father (Eric La Salle), a respected motorcycle mechanic, dies early in the film during a stunningly graphic racing accident. Six months later, Kid returns to take on Smoke (Laurence Fishburne), who is leader of the Black Knights. The dialogue is often laugh-out-loud lame ("Burn rubber, not your soul"), and the stunt riding is repetitive and disappointing. — C. Lemire. (PG-13: violence, sexual content and language.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. D+

"BLIND SPOT: HITLER'S SECRETARY": History buffs won't want to miss this sparse new German documentary about the last days of the Nazi leader. Deceptively simple, less a film than a compassionate oral history, Traudl Junge, 81, talks candidly about her experiences as Hitler's secretary. There's no archival footage; in fact, nothing but Junge sitting in front of the camera. But she's a brisk storyteller, and the material sucks you in. At the end, we're convinced that we have spent time in the company of a good person whose biggest crime was never questioning authority. — M. Polis. (PG: thematic material.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B+

"BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE": Just hours before they killed a dozen classmates and a teacher at Columbine High School, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold went bowling. Was there a connection? Is it logical to blame the sport or, for that matter, any single thing for America's violent nature? "Bowling for Columbine" doesn't have the answers, and really doesn't expect to find them. For documentary writer-director Michael Moore, the asking is what's important. — K. Turan. (R: some violent images and language.) 1 hour, 59 minutes. B

"CATCH ME IF YOU CAN": Director Steven Spielberg has pulled off a neat feat, with two cool movies in one year. He's likely to get more praise for the darkly futuristic "Minority Report," but the pleasure is all ours in this fleet-footed treat, based on a true story. Leonardo DiCaprio plays Frank Abagnale Jr., who began his career as a con artist as a teen in the '60s. With Tom Hanks as the workaholic FBI man who pursues him through bogus identities as a doctor and pilot. — M. Polis. (PG-13: sexual content and brief language.) 2 hours, 20 minutes. A

"CHICAGO": Why was it again that Hollywood stopped making movie musicals? Who decided we shouldn't leave a theater humming that catchy tune, fighting the urge to tap dance our way across the lobby? "Chicago" is the kind of uplifting, exhilarating movie that makes you wonder, why isn't this a bigger star? — M. Polis. (R: violence, language, brief sexuality.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. B

"DARKNESS FALLS": Here's a film that gives B-movies a bad name. Long ago, in the town of Darkness Falls, an old woman gave gold coins to children in exchange for their baby teeth, earning her the nickname Tooth Fairy. When a couple of children go missing, the old woman is lynched by the townspeople, and her ghost has haunted the place ever since. Flash-forward to the present, as we meet Kyle Walsh (Chaneey Kley), a young man who once saw the ghost and lived to tell about it. Kyle returns to Darkness Falls when his childhood sweetheart (Emma Caulfield) seeks his help — her little brother is plagued by the same night terrors that Kyle once had, and may be a target of the Tooth Fairy. — G. Dowell. (PG-13: language, violence.) 1 hour, 15 minutes. D

"DELIVER US FROM EVA": Yes, this is yet another of those romantic comedies in which people date each other for some phony, contrived reason and then, all-too-predictably, end up

together. Director Ron Shelton ("Bull Durham") revisits our recent history with an edgy sadness and Russell gives the kind of performance that makes you wonder, why isn't this a bigger star? — M. Polis. (R: violence, language, brief sexuality.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. B

"DARKNESS FALLS": Far richer than the average cop drama and better than "Training Day," to which it bears a close resemblance. Kurt Russell plays a corrupt and racist cop, working with an anxious-to-please new recruit (Scott Speedman). Based on a story by James Ellroy, and penned by "Training Day" screenwriter David Ayer, the movie follows the two cops as they try to solve a quadruple homicide with a disturbing link to the LAPD, all within the days leading up to and including the Rodney King verdicts. Director Ron Shelton ("Bull Durham") revisits our recent history with an edgy sadness and Russell gives the kind of performance that makes you wonder, why isn't this a bigger star? — M. Polis. (R: violence, language, brief sexuality.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. B

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FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday March 14

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center St., Berkeley 510-843-3456

Alameda

510-843-3456

Woodminster sets auditions for summer musicals

3300 Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland.

This season's shows are "Kiss Me, Kate" July 11-20, "Evita" August 8-17, and "Singin' in the Rain" September 5-14.

Auditions are Saturday and

Sunday, March 22 and 23. Dance auditions are at 11 a.m., singing auditions at 12-4 p.m. Dancers should bring jazz shoes, tap shoes for "Singin' in the Rain."

Singers should prepare 16 bars each of contrasting songs

(rhythm/ballad). An accompanist will be provided, and there is no transposing.

Equity auditions for selected roles by appointment, by calling 510-531-9597 or e-mailing harriet@woodminster.com.

brighter, and the leap into computer animation allows for some terrific images. Our hero, Mogwai (voiced by Haley Joel Osment), is living in the man village. He has plenty of friends, but longs for his carefree jungle days. Bao (John Goodman), his beloved papá bear, feels the same and pays Mogwai a visit. Mogwai's real dilemma is the tug between past and present. "The Jungle Book 2" is aimed at younger kids, but, as always, the Disney folks put in some jokes aimed at their parents. — C. Dolen. (G) 1 hour, 15 minutes. B+

"KANGAROO JACK": Roll over, Tug-pa, here comes a rapping kangaroo. Charlie (Jerry O'Connell) and Louis (Anthony Anderson), two young guys from Brooklyn, end up in the Australian Outback when they accidentally injure Charlie's scary mob-boss stepfather, Sal (Christopher Walken). To try to get back into Sal's good graces, they attempt to deliver \$50,000 to an Aussie mobster. But on their way to make the drop, their jeep hits a kangaroo who revives and hops off with Sal's money. As Charlie and Louis pursue the marsupial, Charlie begins to hallucinate Kangaroo Jack rappin'. The kangaroo featured on the film's poster gives it a family-friendly appearance, but a combination of scatological humor, gunplay and sexual references should put it off limits to many kids. — J. Boyar. (PG: language, crude humor, sensuality, violence.) 1 hour, 28 minutes. F

"THE LIFE OF DAVID GALE": Director Alan Parker has overwhelmed this mystery thriller with a sermon about the death penalty that is obvious and smug. Kevin Spacey is the title character, a hotheaded Texas philosophy professor and outspoken death penalty abolitionist on death row for murdering a fellow activist. He's at the end of his appeals, days from execution, when he decides to tell his story to magazine writer Bitsey Bloom (Kate Winslet). The death penalty is an issue that deserves to be on the front burner of the national debate, but "David Gale" is neither the proper forum nor the winning argument that it makes suppose it to be.

— R. Moore. (R: violent images, nudity, language and sexuality.) 2 hour, 10 minutes. C-

"THE LION KING," IMAX: The Disney animated classic comes to the very big screen, but since everybody's seen it, who will go? Still, the colors are brighter than ever, and the soundtrack is a knockout, especially the orchestral arrangements of Elton John compositions. — R. Butler. (G) 1 hour, 30 minutes. B

"THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS": The second installment of director Peter Jackson's big-screen adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's great trilogy is as intoxicating as last year's "Fellowship." Jackson expertly weaves together three distinct journeys, taking as his centerpiece a scene to which Tolkien devoted only a dozen or so pages — the battle to defend Helm's Deep. It's a fantastic choice, one of the most thrilling battle scenes ever filmed. The special effects, most notably the computer-generated creature Gollum (voice and movements by Andy Serkis) are nifty, with the unfortunate exception of the Ents, who look a bit too much like Gumbys. — M. Polis. (PG-13: epic battle sequences and scary images.) 2 hours, 59 minutes. A-

"NICHOLAS NICKLEBY": Writer/director Douglas McGrath's heavily abridged version of Charles Dickens' classic moves with the unnatural briskness of someone who ingested bad Human shrimp at lunch. Characters dart on- and offscreen, solve each other's problems well before

teatime, and drop dead with great efficiency. This isn't just the Cliffs Notes version of "Nicholas Nickleby"; it's the Cliffs Notes with pages missing. McGrath ("Emma") has managed to cram some awfully sweet stuff into 132 minutes of screen time, however, and the movie is beautifully produced and acted by the likes of Christopher Plummer, Jim Broadbent, Tom Courtenay and Juliet Stevenson. — M. Polis. (PG: thematic material involving some violent action and a childbirth scene.) 2 hours, 12 minutes. B+

"OLD SCHOOL": Rude, crude and God help me, pretty funny. Whipped yuppie husbands everywhere throw off the shackles of weekend trips to Home Depot and enjoy the tomfoolery of this raucous tale of grown men chafing against the responsibilities of adulthood and marriage. It peters out, as so many comedies do, but not before delivering some inspired bits, including the glorious sight of Vince Vaughn strapped into a Baby Bjorn. With Luke Wilson and the hilarious Will Ferrell. — M. Polis. (R: strong sexual content, nudity and language.) 1 hour, 31 minutes. A

"THE PIANIST": This restrained yet emotionally ruinous film set in Warsaw during the Nazi occupation marks a triumphant return for director Roman Polanski. Thanks to his celebrity, Polish pianist Wladyslaw Szpilman (Adrián Brody) is spared from the concentration camps, spending the next two years relying on the kindness of strangers, at times quite literally a prisoner, isolated and locked into abandoned apartments, visited only occasionally by Resistance members. His very endurance is heroic. Having given us spine-tingling nightmares of the imagination in the past ("Rosemary's Baby" "Repulsion"), this time Polanski lets reality give this movie its quiet, straightforward power. Be prepared to cry, but know too that the movie is worth the anguish it generates. — M. Polis. (NR: violence and brief strong language.) 2 hours, 28 minutes. A

"THE QUIET AMERICAN": Michael Caine gives the richest performance of his career in this sage and provocative film adaptation of Graham Greene's scarily prescient 1955 novel. He plays Thomas Fowler, a lazy, dissipated London Times journalist stationed in Saigon during the French-Indochina war. He loves Vietnam and his young girlfriend, Phuong (Do Thi Hai Yen). Then along comes the quiet American, Alden Pyle (Brendan Fraser), who wants to put everything to rights in Vietnam and then go home with Fowler's girl. What unfolds makes you wonder if Greene unlocked the secrets to time travel in the 1950s. This movie has been released in limited theaters, supposedly because it's feared audiences will find it anti-American and stay away.

Pshaw. Let's hope we as a nation are not really so paranoid about revisiting our past mistakes. — M. Polis. (R: violence and brief strong language.) 2 hours, 10 minutes. C-

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"THE RABBIT PROOF FENCE": A compelling true tale that marks director Philip Noyce's return to his Australian homeland after 15 years in Hollywood. A beautiful, taut drama that examines both the strengths and weaknesses of humankind through the story of young Aboriginal girls taken from their homes to become servants. — S. Rea. (PG) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B+

"THE RECRUIT": Al Pacino in hack mode, shouting and spitting his way through the role of a CIA recruiter who may or may not be a good guy. Colin Farrell plays his latest recruit, an idealist looking for both a career and an opportunity to find out the

truth about his father, who may have been an agent himself. Bridget Moynahan plays Farrell's love interest. There's a nice sense of urgency to Farrell's performance, but the script lacks the punch to keep us guessing and by the end, Pacino has turned into a big bore. — M. Polis. (PG-13: violence, sexuality and language.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. C+

"RUSSIAN ARK": A film, an experiment in human precision, a vast theatrical production, a history lesson, an art appreciation class and a form of hallucinogen so potent, the DEA might want to pull a man or two out of Humboldt County to investigate. What more do you want? Shot in a single take, director Alexander Sokurov's movie is a relentlessly beautiful dream, a time-traveling tour through Russian history, set within the Hermitage museum in St. Petersburg. Some aspects of it are mysterious, others confusing. But don't be intimidated by what you don't know about Russian history; just take what you can from this heady, profoundly philosophical movie. — M. Polis. (NR) 1 hour, 36 minutes. A

"SHANGHAI KNIGHTS": Jackie Chan is our modern-day Fred Astaire, a fleet-footed, exquisitely graceful martial arts master. Like Astaire, Chan has vast skills, but they're so specific that they require their own framework for display. But the muddled and witless "Shanghai Knights," in which Chan plays a Western sheriff doing the fish-out-of-water routine in Victorian England, is a sad reminder that his talent is doomed to be peddled over and over again in the dumb action-comedy showcase, with little deviation. Even the generally delightful Owen Wilson misfires in this oafish, mean-spirited sequel to "Shanghai Noon." — M. Polis. (PG-13: violence and sexual content.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. D+

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also composed the score.

Curtain times and dates are 8 p.m. March 21 and 22; 2 p.m. March 23; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. March 29, and 2 p.m. March 30.

The story: Two kids and their eccentric grandma, accompanied by an inept pirate sidekick, travel through some magical lands where they encounter the elements in the play's title. Earth, Air, Water and Fire teach them the importance of nature and the need to protect the environment.

Directed by Susan Worthington and Peter Tamaribuchi. Choreographed by Tioni McCoy and Misty Ty.

Tickets are \$8 general; \$5 for seniors and students. Purchase at the door. Group rates available by calling 510-235-7800, ext. 4274.

MENTAL MUSICAL: Members of Terraleafe, the Air, Water and Fire, a musical with an edge, the Young Actors of Contra Costa College, will be performing next Friday.

musical tale by Lela

John and Phil Gorman

the Performing Arts

Center at the entrance to

the campus. Gorman

Rosy Snow is trapped in a fairy tale world inhabited by the usual stepsisters, plus a demented stepmother, a lecherous father, a bewildered prince, a fairy godmother who sings salty old sailor songs, a troll and a possibly homicidal village idiot, according to the Samuel French catalog of plays.

Funny and a tad scary, it blends farce with romantic fantasy to explore the ancient, dark archetypal origins of the gentler, aw-poor-baby version crafted by the Brothers Grimm. Shall we say, it's grimmer?

"Cinderella Waltz" will play at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through May 3, with Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. on April 6, 13 and 27. All seats are \$13. Call 510-232-4031.

SPOOKY 'CINDERELLA': "Cinderella Waltz," Don Nigro's

fairy tale for adults, opens

March 28 at the Masquers

Playhouse, 105 Park Place,

Point Richmond. Michael

Haven directs this version,

which differs from the familiar

one about the poor little slavey

doing the glass slipper number

with Prince Charming.

Next weekend, March 21-23.

at the same times, the ensemble presents "Arsenic and Old Lace" by Joseph Kesselring.

"The Glass Menagerie" is directed by senior Melia Tichenor and junior Kirsten Haller. "Arsenic and Old Lace" is directed by senior Alex Phillips.

Both shows are produced by senior Sophia Tuttle and supervised by arts teacher Sarah Sammons.

Tickets, \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and seniors, are available at the box office or in advance at Albany High School's Little Theater, 603 Key Route Blvd., Albany. Reservations and details are available at theaterensemble@hotmail.com.

Send items of interest to Jack

Tucker c/o Hills Newspapers,

4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA, 94806; fax to 510-262-2776; e-mail to jtucker@cc-times.com, or call

510-262-2768. Include a contact

name and number.

Events

FROM PAGE C3

Jeff Narell and Bongo Beach Band with Crazy, Caribbean Allstars, Harry Best and Shabang, Jingle Apart, March 15, 9 p.m. \$15

Native Elements, March 21, 9 p.m. With Dan-i Spence, Riddimystics, Pacific Vibrations and Shashamani Soundsystem

A benefit concert in the month-long celebration of the 30th anniversary of Ashkenaz. \$15

Shashamani Soundsystem, March 23, 10 p.m. \$6

1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. 510-525-6055 or www.ashkenaz.com

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — The Keho Nation, The Moops, The Rising, March 14.

JND, Brown Baggin, March 15

Joe Firstman, The Ordeal

oda B March 16

All Star Jam, March 17

PHIX, March 19. A Celebration of the

music of Phish

Acoustic Wednesday, March 19, 10 p.m.

Free

Funk Fetsch, March 20. With Eric Riggsbee, Big Al, Mahesh and Eric G

Dank Man Shank, March 21. With Thunderspurs and Bray

Alphabet Soup, March 22. With Greens

LT and the Friendly Traveler, March 23

With Potluck and Homonym and Tyrant.

\$3 to \$10 general unless noted. For

ages 18 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m.

2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0866

CATO'S ALE HOUSE — Green Chimneys, March 18

Jose Roberto y Sus Amigos, March 19.

Strange Angels, March 23

Free. Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

and Sunday from 6 p.m. to 5 p.m.

3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-3349 or www.mrcato.com

COMMUNITY CONCERTS — SeVoSo, March 18

March 18, 8 p.m.

\$20 to \$22. Orinda Library Auditorium,

24 Orinda Way, Orinda. 925-229-2710 or www.communityconcerts.com

DOWNTOWN — Scott Amendola Trio, March 14

Post Junk Trio, March 15

The Mimi Fox Quartet, March 18

Jules Broussard and Ned Boynton, March 19, 8 p.m.

Keni El Lebrijano Flamenco Guitar, March 20, 8 p.m.

Rhonda Benin, March 21

Hai Stein Quartet March 22

Free. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810 or www.down-town-restaurant.com

18TH ANNUAL JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL — March 22 through March 29 "Shlomo Bar and Habera Hatavet."

March 22, 8 p.m. \$24 to \$27 general;

\$22 to \$25 seniors and students. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

"Klezmer for Kids: Gerry Tenney and California Klezmer," March 23, 1 p.m.

\$10 to \$13 general, \$8 to \$11 seniors and students; \$5 to \$8 children

Berkeley Richmond JCC, 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley.

(925) 866-9559 or www.jcc.org

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun, March 14.

\$15.50 to \$16.50

Dix Bruce and Jim Nunally, March 15.

\$15.50 to \$16.50

David Scheel, March 16. \$15.50 to \$17.50

Black Brothers: Ireland's First Family of Song, March 17. \$17.50 to \$18.50.

Vance Gilbert, March 19. \$15.50 to \$16.50

Dolly Ranchers, March 20. \$14.50 to \$15.50

Tret Fure, March 21. \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Marley's Ghost, March 22. \$15.50 to \$16.50

Sid Selridge, March 23. \$15.50 to \$16.50

Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761 or 510-762-BASS or www.freightandsalvage.org

KIMBALL'S EAST — Lee Ritenour, March 14 through March 16. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$30.

Larry Carlton, March 20 through March 23, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$30.

East Bay Public Market, 5800 Shellmound St., Emeryville. 510-658-2555 or 510-762-BASS or www.kimballs.com.

KITKA'S "OPEN YOUR VOICE"

BALKAN SINGING WORKSHOPS — through March 24. At each workshop a group of Kitka singers will teach special warm-up techniques designed to produce "open voice" resonance as well as some favorite tunes from the Kitka repertoire. Reservations suggested for individual workshop. Monday,

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-443-0323 or www.kitka.org

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER — Orquesta La Moderna Tradicion, March 14, 8:30 p.m. \$12 general. Cafe Rumba in the Cafe Lobby, March 16, 3:30 p.m.

"Children's Songs For Peace and a Better World," featuring Brett Denner, March 16, 5:30 p.m. A benefit CD release party for The Mosaic Project, a non-profit outdoor school uniting diverse children for a better world. \$5 to \$15.

"Palenque," March 20, 7:30 p.m. A night of Cuban music. \$10.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org

924 GILMAN ST. — Dispensing of False Hopes, Yuriko, March 9, 5 p.m. Atom and His Package, Dominatrix, Sixty Stories, The Haggard, The Sky Flakes, March 14.

The Fleishes, Sharp Knife, R&B Adventure Kids, Party Raid, Jewdrivin' March 15.

To See You Broken, March 21.

Good Clean Fun, Affront, The Reputation, The Insurgent, The Perfect Hate Letter, March 22.

PGM, Hint, Cobra High, March 23, 5 p.m.

Most shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m.

924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926

STARRY PLOUGH PUB — Redmeat, Calamity and Main, Scott Miller, March 14.

Blue on Green, The Wild Hunt (formerly Green Man Grunin), Sgian Dhu, March 15.

St. Patty's Day Celebration, March 17, 6 p.m. \$7.

Jethro Jeremiah, Josh Fix and the Furi-ous Four, Brian Kenney Fresno, March 20, 9:30 p.m. \$5.

She Mob, Ramona the Pest, Ultralash, March 21, 9:30 p.m.

Extreme Elvis, 86, Carrie Bradley, March 22, 9:30 p.m. \$6.

For 10 a.m. 21 and over unless otherwise noted, Sunday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2082 or www.yoshis.com or www.tickets.com.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

AMERICAN BAROQUE — "Loose Canons," March 16, 5 p.m. J.S. Bach's "Goldberg Canons" is presented in the context of cutting edge music by Bay Area composers. The event is part of a live webcast at www.musiccast.com.

Free. 5429 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-563-8420 or www.americanbaroque.org

BAROQUE CHORAL GUILD — "There is Sweet Music: The English Choral Tradition Then and Now," March

YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

BY PATRICK BERRY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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Calendar

To the Community Calendar

Newspaper Thursdays on a

available basis. Mail submissions

to 1000 16th St., San Francisco, CA 94101; e-mail to

calendars@sfchronicle.com or fax to 510-

527-7620.

Children

Berkeley Youth Orchestra per-

10 p.m. March 16, at the Laney

Theatre in Oakland. Ann Kri-

ntz, Bahn, Massner, Monti,

Macap, and Buzet. Tickets

\$10. Call 510-525-8484

Information

Social Skills and Man-

nerhoods are offered in Albany

days for two hours, 3 to 5 p.m.

Workshop lasts for four weeks. For

information and registration fees,

call 527-6202.

Report Group meets twice a

month evenings at the

Cancer Resource Center,

Oakland Ave. The free group is

open to anyone who has

a parent or care-

taker. The meeting is co-cha-

pered by a woman whose mother had

cancer. Details: 531-7551.

Local books from the Berkeley

Community Center Li-

and quality time with your kids.

The library is located at

100 St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3

p.m. through Thursday, 6:30

p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For details, call 848-0237.

■ Hall of Health, 2230 Shattuck Ave., a

health exhibit museum of Children's

Hospital Oakland, presents free puppet

shows, 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The

Kids on the Block, the award-winning

educational puppet troupe, feature

puppets with such conditions as cerebral

palsy, blindness and Down syndrome.

The Hall of Health is a hands-on

community health-education museum

and science center sponsored by Children's

Hospital Oakland and Alta Bates

Medical Center. Hours: Tuesday to Sat-

urday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is

free. Details: 549-9682.

■ El Cerrito offers special programs for

children from 22 months to 5 years of

age. These programs are designed to

offer parents an opportunity to leave

their pre-school children in a safe at-

mosphere under qualified supervision.

The program for ages 22 months to 3-

1/2 years meets Monday through Thurs-

day from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is

continuous as long as space is available.

Located at 7007 Moeser Lane. De-

tails: Judie, 215-4371.

■ LGBT Parent and Prospective Par-

ent Groups meet the first Saturday of

the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with

concurrent child care. All groups meet

at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph

Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are re-

quested, but not required. Details: Anna

at familyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-

789-8560.

■ The Ann Martin Children's Center

offers eight "Support Groups For Moth-

ers," sessions for first time mothers and

babies their babies under 5 months. Ex-

perienced facilitator. Details: 524-0821.

■ Vista Community College, 2020 Mil-

via St., offers its new Sunrise College

this spring with classes in accounting,

e-commerce, business, Java program-

ing, English, ESL, statistics and Span-

ish for business professionals. Classes

start at 7 a.m. and end at 9 a.m. Call

981-2800 for more information

■ The Albany Library, 1247 Marin

Ave., offers free, ongoing chess instruc-

tion Tuesdays, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The lessons range from fundamental to

advanced topics, and also casual play.

This program is led by David Priess,

who holds the Senior Master title and is

one of the top chess players and teach-

ers in California. All levels are welcome

and chess sets are provided. Call Julie

Winkelstein at 510-526-3720 ext. 19.

■ University of California Botanical

Garden holds a free Sick Plant Clinic on

the first Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.

to noon. UC Plant pathology and ento-

mology experts will diagnose what ails

your plant. UC Botanical Garden is at

200 Centennial Dr. in Berkeley. For in-

formation, call 510-643-2755.

■ Folklife classes, Mondays 9:30 to

11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community

Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from

the Kensington Library). Simple, clear

lessons for people of all levels. Empha-

sis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for

one class. Details: 528-3535.

■ Berkeley Farmers' Markets

All Year Round, Rain or Shine

Every Saturday & Tuesday

featuring ORGANIC fruits and vegetables

FRESH from California's Farms

...and much more

TUESDAYS: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Darby St. & MLK, Jr. Way

SATURDAYS: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Center St. & MLK, Jr. Way

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Berkeley Farmers

Calendar

FROM PAGE C5

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■ **The Berkeley Adult School** offers Adult Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be uti-

lized to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and computer classes, ranging from introduction to Computers to Advanced Computer Applications Details: 446-6130.

■ **The South Berkeley Senior Center**, 2939 Ellis St., offers a variety of classes Details: 883-5222

■ **Interview Clinic** sponsored by Turning Point Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday mornings from 9-11 by appointment. 30-minute sessions are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call 848-6370 and leave a name and telephone number.

■ **A free CopWatch class** takes place Monday nights from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at

2022 Blake St. near Shattuck. Know your rights. Details: 548-0425.

■ **Berkeley Community Media**, Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BGM to the public are held Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Details: 848-2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage.

■ **Ashkenaz**, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers many dances classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalaran Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. Ashkenaz is a non-profit music and dance community center. Details: 525-5054.

■ **Life Stories/Collage and Ceramics** classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Details: 845-6330

■ **Dance and Fitness Classes** open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theater dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370

■ **Let's Swing and Jitterbug**: 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate, four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month. Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes

■ **TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly)** Chapter CA 1294 is now meeting from 7:15-8:30 p.m. every Thursday at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. Details: Betty Coates at 235-0490

■ **Turning Point at the YWCA**, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Rusic Remembrance on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment.

■ **Overeaters Anonymous** meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2 (child-care room); parents may bring their children. Details: 525-5231

■ **Toastmasters**, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice-Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for details

■ **Civil Rights** activists needed. Write

for women only. For more information and location, call 925-787-9247 or e-mail Leimermaid@aol.com.

■ **The Commonwealth Club of California** presents Strode Talbott, president, The Brookings Institution; former Deputy Secretary of State and Journalist in conversation with Mark Danner, UC Berkeley journalism professor, and Peter Tarnoff, Undersecretary of State in the Clinton administration at 7:30 p.m. March 17, at the Sibley Auditorium, UC Berkeley. The discussion is free. Call Riki Reiner, public relations director, 415-597-6712 or Nicole Grant, public relations associate, 415-597-6719

■ **Berkeley Neighborhood Computers**, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. The organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. Details 845-1226 or e-mail bnc@netvalue.net

■ **Berkeley Camera Club** meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints, learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 525-3565

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A LIKELY
PREPAYMENT
PENALTY

If you thought prepayment penalties something only you could love, it may be time to reexamining the case.

A prepayment penalty course, is it is money (six months interest on your mortgage, for example) that you have paid down by more in the first three years of its life, also "hard" penalties that keep major paydowns of another's life, but another matter?

Let's say you certainly as it is to know that you are moving from your home within the coming year. When you sell your mortgage, you find have few bargains. The lender seems to control the hand possible acceptance prepayment penalty on your loan can be a valuable bargaining trade for that, may will make the process a bit more and even offer a low interest rate.

Don't reject the prepayment penalty hand, therefore. Bring it with full awareness and when it accept your own additional assistance. 280-2103 and visit www.marcguay.com

Marc Guay is a with Red Oak in Berkeley.

Calendar

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OBITUARIES AND FUNERAL LISTINGS

Dina Marian Erickson

06/12/18 to 03/03/03

Dina Marian Erickson passed away after a long illness on March 3rd, 2003. Marian emigrated from Sweden with her parents in 1927. They settled on a farm in the pioneering community of Polworth Saskatchewan where she helped her father with farm work. As a young woman she moved to Victoria British Columbia and began her career in sales by working in a ladies garment store. She married Chester Erickson in 1942, whom she had met in Saskatchewan. Chester served in the American Medical Regiment and later Chester and Marian moved to California. Marian and Chester opened and operated California Causal Furniture in El Cerrito from the late 1940's to the middle 1980's. Chester did custom upholstery and Marian was highly regarded for her interior design skills. Marian was active in the local business community and was a member of the Soroptimist Club and a past president of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce.

When Marian became ill she moved to Minden, Nevada and was cared for by her son Kenneth Erickson. She is survived by her daughter Melene Smith and son in law Geoff Smith of San Jose and by her son Kenneth Erickson of Kirkwood, sister Anna Martin of Vancouver, cousin Elof Granberg of Richmond and nieces and nephews. Marian cherishes her family and friends in Sweden, Canada and California and will be missed by all.

There will be a family celebration of her life. Donations in her memory can be made to a preferred charity.

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE TO

Child Abuse Prevention Council

*Help Save
a Child's Life*

1-877-700-GIVE



www.carsforcharities.com

DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER

Hip and Knee Pain free ARTHRITIS SEMINAR

Wednesday, March 19
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

PINOLE CAMPUS

2151 Apian Way

Thursday, March 20
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

SAN PABLO CAMPUS

2000 VALE ROAD

Doctors Medical Center
JointWorks Program is
designed to help provide
relief for those who suffer
the debilitating pain and
loss of mobility associated
with arthritis in knees and
hips. Come learn more
about our program and
treatment alternatives.

CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE
AND FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.
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Medical Center**

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For Information on getting Obituaries & Memorials

IN THE HILLS
CALL (510) 748-1666
or
FAX (510) 748-1660



Community

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■ **Overeaters Anonymous** meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2 (child-care room); parents may bring their children. Details: 525-5231

■ **Toastmasters**, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice-Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for details

■ **Civil Rights** activists needed. Write

to sign up for an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine has a background in Design and Education. For the past 10 years, she has assisted in producing numerous resumes as part of her desktop publishing business. Call 848-6370

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Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

ing supplement to The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, March 14, 2003

Section D

MERYL JENSEN
Down the Road

don't
use
booster seats?

MOTOR MATTERS
Many parents are making a deadly mistake by not giving in, when it their children's safety in the finding of a study that parents do not use belt-booster seats for their children. It battles, and make one booster seats. Allow older children who own their own safety seats in a vehicle without a booster seat, warns Dr. Winston, director of Trauma and pediatric injury research at The Children's Hospital of

San Francisco. The hospital operates Partners in Passenger Safety — a research project that now and why children are killed in motor vehicle

project, a collaboration between Children's Hospital and State Insurance Companies, has several studies about seat use. We help parents set priorities: things are priorities than things are not," said a pediatrician, biomechanical engineer and mother of

two children. "It has to be the number one priority," Winston said, since motor crashes are the leading death among children 4

to 14.

See ROAD, Page D3



MOTOR MATTERS

ACURA ESTIMATES that 70 percent of TSX buyers will opt for the quick responding automatic transmission with Sequential SportShift, which achieves slightly better fuel economy than the standard manual.

Acura comes up with all-new sports sedan in 2004 TSX

MOTOR MATTERS

The 2004 TSX is the latest sports sedan geared toward the driving enthusiast. Acura built this one for the buyer who wants out of the coupe market.

With the all-new TSX, Acura is filling a void in its lineup and looking to recapture drivers who have gone to other carmakers for a sporty sedan.

The styling of the TSX is eye-catching. Along the hood, scalloped lines gracefully stream down the front, and bulging fenders give the sedan some muscle.

A short rear overhang suggests sportiness, and chrome-trimmed door handles dress up the exterior.

Powering this mid-size sports sedan is a 2.4-liter, four-cylinder engine. It produces 200 horsepower at 6,800 rpm and 166 pound-feet of torque at 4,500 rpm.

Acura says the engine's output can be compared to some six-cylinder powerplants.

This performance is accomplished through the automaker's i-VTEC technology which varies the valve lift, letting the engine develop powerful low-end torque and also

CONNIE KEANE
Keane on Wheels

provides improved fuel efficiency and emissions.

The TSX comes standard with a six-speed manual transmission and 17-inch wheels and Michelin tires.

A five-speed automatic transmission with Sequential SportShift is optional.

Acura estimates that 70 percent of TSX buyers will opt for the quick

responding automatic, which achieves slightly better fuel economy than the manual.

EPA ratings on the manual are 21 miles per gallon city and 29 mpg highway, while the automatic achieves 22 mpg city and 31 mpg highway.

On my test-drive of the TSX with the all-new, six-speed manual transmission I enjoyed shifting through the gears more than I thought I would. Before entering the vehicle, I was told the manual transmission had short shifts for a sportier feel.

As a matter of preference, I'm

not crazy about short shift throws because they can be too hard and tight for my taste. However, the short throws through each of the six gears were smooth and effortless.

The front-wheel drive TSX hugs the road and corners well. I felt confident in tight cornering maneuvers, braking and accelerating.

The TSX has a drive-by-wire throttle control system which improves acceleration to specific driving conditions. The throttle and the

See KEANE, Page D2

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Desire for Studebaker put on hold for 40 years

MOTOR MATTERS

Money was in short supply in the mid-1960s for teen-ager Randy Denchfield. The young high school student had just acquired his driver's license and was anxious for his first set of wheels.

He wanted something with style, yet he had to be budget-conscious. A mid-1950s Studebaker coupe seemed to fit the bill, offering the most car for the money.

"They all had a great look and were affordable," Denchfield remembers.

Robert Bourke, chief designer of Raymond Loewy Studios, actually was responsible for the stunning design. It was hurriedly designed as a special show car. Instead, the Studebaker proved to be so desirable it was put into production.

While the search for a good, used Studebaker progressed, Denchfield learned that his older brother, Richard, was about to trade in his 1962 Chevrolet Impala convertible on a new Oldsmobile.

The brothers worked out a deal and Denchfield's first car was that Chevrolet, and he put the desire for a Studebaker temporarily on hold. Within a couple of years Denchfield received orders from his draft board. After a stint in the military, he found himself making other plans.

Finally, early in 2002, Denchfield's long-dormant dream was rekindled when he saw an ad offering a 1955 Studebaker Champion coupe for sale.

The sleek, light-yellow Studebaker had hardly been driven in the last dozen years after undergoing a professional restoration in Richmond, Va. "I've been wanting one since 1966," Denchfield comments. He bought the Studebaker last February.

Although the aerodynamic Studebaker

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

is about 7 inches lower than other 1955 cars, it is surprisingly spacious inside. The 6-foot, 2-inch owner is comfortable in either the front or rear seat.

Denchfield decided to drive his new-found prize the 40 miles home to Maryland, over the objections and warnings of the previous owner.

He cautioned Denchfield that the road-worthiness of the coupe was untested as it had spent the past decade as a show car. "What could go wrong in 40 miles?" Denchfield asked rhetorically.

Denchfield's enthusiasm couldn't be dampened and he settled himself behind the steering wheel on the fabric-covered seat and, with the help of a jump-start, fired up the eager 185-cubic-inch, six-cylinder engine.

He noticed that the temperature gauge was not functioning and made a mental note to address that problem later. Power from the 101-horsepower engine is channeled to the rear wheels via an optional automatic transmission.

Denchfield, thoroughly enjoyed his drive home in the clear wintry weather, on the lengthy 120-inch wheelbase supported by 15-inch white sidewall Allstate tires.

He was on a divided six-lane highway when he noticed moisture on the windshield. "You know that you're in trouble when you see antifreeze on the windshield," Denchfield said.

He quickly got off the highway and drove straight to a friend's nearby house.



THIS 1955 STUDEBAKER coupe spent many years as a show car before present owner bought it. The on-radiator leak

No one was home. After locating a garden hose, and with the engine still running, he gave the overheated engine a drink of cooling water.

With the temperature once more under control, an investigation by Denchfield revealed a hole in the radiator. He had hoped for a faulty hose or clamp. Unfortunately, the car completed the trip home on the back of a truck.

Following the installation of a new radiator and a working temperature gauge, the problem was solved.

The 2,790-pound coupe is equipped with turn signals, heater, AM radio and fresh air vents on the sides of the front fenders.

With a nod to the 110-mph speedometer, he said, "That's funny." However, Denchfield remarks, "It'll do more than 70. It goes just fine at 55 to 60."

When new, the Studebaker price of \$1,875, quite a bit compared with the competition Chevrolet and Plymouth.

"It has been called the car of the 1950s," Denchfield concurs with that observation.

"It's a really neat car. It's a lot of fun with it," Denchfield

Ignition timing, bulb mix-ups and purpose of strut bearings confound readers

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Q I have an ongoing debate with my brother about how often it's necessary to check ignition timing.

He says never, but I say each time a major service is done. Who's right?

Paul Contara, San Francisco

A Correct initial ignition timing and timing advance are very important for optimum engine performance, fuel economy and emissions reduction.

Older vehicles with contact point ignition systems were prone to substantial timing variations as a result of wear and/or point misadjustment.

A timing check/adjustment is mandatory each time a tuneup is performed (every 12,000-15,000 miles).

Electronic ignition systems, introduced in the mid- to late 1970s, virtually eliminated timing drift, although the mechanical methods used to control spark advance can cause an occasional problem.

BRAD BERGHOLDT
Auto QnA

By the mid- to late '80s, electronic spark advance systems eliminated virtually all timing concerns — after the base timing is properly set.

Recent distributorless ignition systems put this issue fully to bed, as there is no longer a timing adjustment provision other than a possible software update.

Some manufacturers call for a timing inspection of adjustable-timing vehicles as often as every 30,000 miles, some at 60,000, and others make no recommendation at all.

For those with adjustable timing, symptoms of retarded timing include sluggish performance, poor fuel economy and excessive exhaust temperature.

Advanced timing can cause engine pinging, engine damage and/or an emissions test failure.

Q I recently noticed the front parking lights of my '86 pickup come on whenever I press on the brake pedal.

I checked all the fuses, thinking it might be a back-feed, but they're all OK. Any ideas?

Ron Tedesco, Cupertino, Calif.

A This should be an easy one. Was one of your rear tail/brake light bulbs recently replaced? If so, it might be of the wrong type (1156 instead of a 1157), or the bulb is misinserted into the socket.

Many vehicles use two-filament bulbs for tail (parking) and brake illumination, and a bulb mix-up can cause the two circuits to be inadvertently joined.

Q I recently had new struts installed on the front of my Toyota. I was charged for new "strut bearings."

What are these and why were they needed? Seems a little fishy to me.

Sandra Collins, Huntsville, Ala.

A MacPherson struts, when used on the front of a vehicle, perform several jobs.

The slender tube, generally surrounded by a coil spring, serves as an upper control arm and shock absorber.

The strut assembly must rotate as the wheels are turned, hence the need for a strut bearing.

This part can deteriorate, causing rough or noisy steering, and is frequently replaced

along with the upper strut bumper during strut service.

If asked in advance, repair shops are obligated to return replaced parts. An explanation of the purpose, condition, and reason for replacement would have eased the concern.

An explanation of the part condition, and reason for replacement, would have eased the concern.

Brad Bergholdt teaches automotive technology at Evergreen Valley College, San Jose, Calif. E-mail: bergholdt@juno.com or write to him at Drive, Mercury News, 750 Mission St., San Jose, CA 95103. He also answers personal replies.

Keane

FROM PAGE 1

engine communicate easily about how to perform based on road grades: with more throttle gain on the uphills and less on the

downhills.

The sports sedan is built with a rigid body structure. It has a track-tuned, four-wheel independent suspension; a quick-ratio rack-and-pinion steering wheel; sporty, deeply bolstered bucket seats; and comes standard with Vehicle Stability Assist.

Xenon High Intensity Discharge head-

lights, dual-zone automatic climate control, a power moonroof, eight-way power driver's seat and a 360-watt sound system are all standard features in the TSX.

The vehicle is expected to be priced around \$28,000 when it goes on sale in April.

In addition to the automatic transmission, the only other option is the Acura Navigation system, featuring a new 8-inch touch screen.

The TSX is constructed with omni-directional crash safety features so that occu-

cants are protected in head-on, offset frontal and side-impact collisions.

The TSX is the first Acura to come standard with side-curtain airbags to protect from head and neck injuries.

The front passenger's seat-mounted side airbag uses seven sensors to determine if a child or adult is in the seat to regulate the force of deployment.

Acura now encompasses a comprehensive line of luxury cars, enough to attract new drivers to the brand.

2004 ACURA TSX

Vehicle Type
Estimated Retail
Engine Type
Horsepower
Torque
Transmission
Wheelbase
Turning Circle
Curb Weight
Fuel Capacity
Mileage
Strong Feature
Weak Feature

\$28,000
DOHC 16-valve, 2.4-liter four-cylinder w/PGM-FI
200 at 6,800 rpm
166 at 4,500 rpm
Six-speed manual
105 inches (curb-to-curb) 40 feet
3,230 pounds
.17 gallons
City/highway 21/29
.New Acura entry
Nothing worth mentioning

plus
\$17,688
0% APR

0% ON CAMRY, COROLLA MATRIX, HIGHLANDER SIENNA & SOLARA (Excludes conv'l)

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0% ON '03 CAMRY'S

Starting at \$17,688
Plus 0% APR

0% ON '03 HIGHLANDERS

Starting at \$23,988
Plus 0% APR

0% ON '03 PRIUS

Starting at \$19,488
Plus 0% APR

0% ON '03 TACOMAS

Starting at \$12,588
Net Cost

Sale Price \$13,088
Factory Rebate \$500

plus
\$13,788
0% APR
on credit approval

\$500 ON ALL SOLARAS & TACOMAS
\$1500 ON ALL 2003 TUNDRA'S
\$3000 OR \$2500 AND SPECIAL FINANCING ON '03 SIENNA'S!

0% ON '03 COROLLAS

Starting at \$13,788
Plus 0% APR

0% ON ALL 2003 4RUNNERS IN STOCK!

Starting at \$4,000
Off MSRP

0% ON '03 MATRIX'S

Starting at \$15,988
Plus 0% APR

0% ON '03 TUNDRA'S

Starting at \$15,488
Net Cost

Sale Price \$16,988
Factory Rebate \$1,500

TOYOTA of BERKELEY

Nobody Beats Berkeley!

0% APR

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On Credit Approval

0% ON '03 CAMRY'S

Starting at \$17,688
Plus 0% APR

0% ON '03 HIGHLANDERS

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der belts are properly positioned across a child's chest and hips.

Without booster seats, children are uncomfortable with the shoulder belt rubbing their neck and often compensate by tucking the shoulder belt behind their back or under their arm, leaving their upper bodies unrestrained.

During a 35 mph crash, this will allow a child's head to fly forward with enough force to hit the seatback. Having the lap belt across the belly can result in spinal cord and abdominal injuries.

One study Winston conducted

showed that children improperly restrained by adult seat belts are four times more likely to have serious head injuries and are 3.5 times more likely to suffer significant injury in crashes than children properly restrained.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that children who have outgrown their car seats use booster seats until the vehicle's shoulder and lap belts fit correctly — usually when a child is about 80 pounds, 4 feet 9 inches and at least 8 years old.

Winston's most recent study, which was based on focus group interviews looked at why parents don't use these booster seats.

Some didn't know what belt-positioning booster seats were. Others were surprised at how long children should continue to use them, or thought booster seats didn't serve a safety purpose.

One parent in the focus group said: "To be honest, I never really got it. It just boosts them up — it's not as good as a car seat."

Other parents insisted they were safe drivers or drove safe cars and

were not likely to be involved in a crash. If they were to be involved in a crash, they felt confident that using the seat belt would protect their child.

Another reason parents didn't use booster seats is that they look to state laws for guidance. However, most state laws require only that children up to age 4 be restrained in a child safety seat and after that use a seat belt. Although laws are improving — about 13 states have booster seat laws in effect — it's best to follow the NHTSA and AAP recommendations, Winston said. (California law is 6 years

or 60 pounds.)

One key difference the study found between parents who use booster seats and those who did not was their parenting style and what was negotiable.

Parents who used booster seats made it non-negotiable. One parent commented: "It could be their life. Getting a bath or not is not going to hurt them."

Winston thinks this attitude is key for parents: Pick your battles and limit them to the most important, which include keeping your children safe when on the road.

Child safety seat that talks is a big hit

ANDREW BODIPRO
MEMBER
HONORABLE NEWSPAPERS

— IT — Every year, it company introduces the Society of Au- and Engineers World Con- and impresses visitors the exhibits as much as the engineers.

in's Congress, one popular notice is a talk- quality seat developed the exhibitor.

Tattle Tale was developed as a result of industry re- and suggests child seats used improperly by con- much as 90 percent.

"It's our experience that people seem to respond better to audible instructions to install things like a car seat than to written instructions," said Greg Shepherd, an engineer with New Lenox.

The Tattle Tale's five-point harness system also fits in well with the stated goal of safety officials at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Since becoming NHTSA administrator in 2001, Jeffrey Runge has made child safety and security belt use a high priority for the federal agency.

New Lenox is working on getting wide distribution for its Tattle Tale seats through national and regional retailers.

Typical child safety seats cost from \$50 to \$150 at most stores. The Tattle Tale seats are available for \$189.95 and \$199.95 at www.smartchildseat.com.

Mustang Mach 1 is a salute to the past

EVAN COLE SMITH
ORLANDO SENTINEL

of us old enough to

have a few cars like

the one I kept it some-

times lost

in reflection: "Man, I re-

membered when I bought that new

mobile. Great car. Best

I can't believe I sold

it and kept it."

A lot of those on my

list aren't it, how time

you memories of hor-

ror, a rough ride,

mechanical problems

and memories of my

first Corvette, but if

not enough, I can re-

member the radio stuc-

— classical mu-

and when the switch in

the dashboard that prevented

me from starting the car in

the back, and prevented you

from getting in the car in

my 1970 Ford

Mach 1 did not have

power, and had only

two doors. I can't think of any-

about the car.

One thing: A rod that

goes to the clutch pedal

often.

The clutch in to shift,

the clutch would break, the clutch

and go straight to the

a thumping sound,

you would be stuck in

the gear it was in.

which rods were cheap

and a wrench to re-

set some rods and a

glove box.

I just used the Mach 1

for the 1969 Must-

ang model was

cheap, if I do say so

so.

I sold my 1970 Mach 1, list

price \$3,620, for \$1,200, so I

could buy a Plymouth Road

Runner.

Wish I'd kept it. But because

I didn't, this 2003 model brings

back some very nice memories.

That car that Ford en-

gineers used as

for the 2003 Ford

Mach 1, the latest in a

line of special-edition

the company is de-

veloping to help keep some in-

terest in the car until the all-new

2005 Mustang arrives.

The "Mach 1" badge on the

rear is just like the 1970 model.

The seats, with horizontal ribs,

are very close, ditto the stripes on the hood.

But the neatest salute to the

past is the genuine "shaker"—

a big scoop that sticks up

through a hole in the hood that is actually attached to the engine. When the engine shakes, the scoop shakes — hence the name.

Of course, engines don't

shake so much anymore, espe-

cially this ultrasleath, 32-

valve, double overhead cam-

shaft, 305-horsepower, 4.6-liter

V8.

But it shakes a little when

you accelerate hard, which the

car encourages you to do often.

Deja vu, all over again.

That engine is attached to a

five-speed manual transmission,

two more gears than my 1970

Mach 1 had, but one fewer than

the 390-horsepower 2003 Must-

ang Cobra has.

A six-speed would have been

nice in the Mach 1, but it would

have raised the price, and at

\$28,995 with shipping, the car

is expensive enough already.

On the road, the Mach 1

handles great, due in part to the

fat P225/55R16 radials and firm

suspension.

The seats are the best I ex-

perienced in the current genera-

tion Mustang, better even than

the buckets in the Cobra.

This was, in fact, the most

comfortable I've been in a Must-

ang in years.

I sold my 1970 Mach 1, list

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What are

driving?

Auto Plus

Classics: MGB still going strong

1000A August 24, 2001

Section 1

from The Piedmont The Berkeley Voice The Journal The Alameda Journal
Classic Classics: MGB still going strong [D3]

DAVE VAN SICKLE

Most gas-saving gadgets fall short of touted claims

When gasoline prices began to rise in 1973, motorists' concern about fuel economy increased. Gas prices were not the only factor, however; advertising by oil companies, especially of gasoline with a low octane rating, sounded like a warning to drivers to "go easy" on the accelerator. Cummins Diesel engines, however, were not designed to run on low-octane fuel. In addition, Cummins' engines had more torque at lower engine speeds than did engines of similar size. This made it easier for drivers to use the engine's torque to move the vehicle, rather than rely on the power of the engine to move the vehicle. This was especially true for drivers of heavy-duty vehicles, who were more likely to use the engine's torque to move the vehicle, rather than rely on the power of the engine to move the vehicle.

• We will get several benefits to healthy increase in plant efficiencies and other benefits. e.g. 1.5% more insulation can be used. 2. 10% less insulation is required. 3. Evaluating the new technologies for living devices in EPA. 4. Study few a few that actually prove low energy and none that do so significantly. • Evaluating other methods less energy intensive. Different methods, different materials, different approaches are the up-coming technologies in insulation.

- Ignition modifiers, most replace rendering ignition p.

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See Next Page Page 06

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Fridays in Lent, it's deep-fried fish

BY JENNIFER ENNA
CONTRIBUTOR

— It's Friday night, famous banquet hall at Lakes Valley VFW Post in Summit, Ill., is looking like it's been 25 years ago. The wood paneling and booths are submitted as evidence. More than 80 long tables are holding a battery of half-and-half, mayonnaise, salt and pepper, ketchup, sugar and lemon wedges, butter and margarine.

"We're crazy," says executive chef Mike Polancich, a burdened with crossing his brow on a Friday in January. "I'm remembering a recent impatient customer who demanded her fish be fried. And if it's Lent, we're gambling, but odds are we'll be out the door."

"It must be a fish fry," says Lesmeister, a burdened with crossing his brow on a Friday in January. "I'm remembering a recent impatient customer who demanded her fish be fried. And if it's Lent, we're gambling, but odds are we'll be out the door."

"It's the six weeks before Lent that we also extend to anyone who wants fish fry, of course," says Lesmeister, who's variations all year. "Bars and restaurants are weekly fests at VFW and Legion Halls across America."

Barb and Barb Polancich, members of the Ladies Auxiliary at Lakes Valley VFW Post 367 in Summit, empathize with Lesmeister when Lent is mentioned. "We're a bit more vocal in both fests back then," says Barb. "It's packed," Polancich says.

Then, they have 70 members in the Auxiliary. So maybe

the question to ask, then, is why they still work the fish fries—for tips only—after so many years. The official answer is patriotism (the Auxiliary uses the profits to pay for building improvements and community contributions). But Polancich's answer is more fun: "I'll tell you why we do it," she says. "We're crazy."

Cantigny, Ill., bartender Kay Green cheerfully adds that battle scars are part of the process: "Everyone pretty much walks away with bruises from running into each other."

Both VFW Halls see business double and triple, from 600 to more than 2,000 a night. For Lesmeister, who has to order supplies, one Friday in Lent translates to 900 pounds of catfish, 700 pounds of perch, 200 pounds of ketchup, sugar and lemon wedges, butter and margarine.

"It's that kind of crowd.

Why Friday? Why fish?

Most histories of the Friday night fish fry (and there aren't many) credit Catholics, who historically have abstained from meat on Fridays. (Church doctrine now asks that Catholics abstain only on Ash Wednesday and Lenten Fridays.)

Jeff Hagen of Madison, Wis., has written two guidebooks on fish fries ("Fry Me to the Moon" and its sequel, "Codfather 2"), though his focus is almost exclusively Wisconsin. He makes a good case, though, that Wisconsin's German-Catholics inspired the fish fries here.

These German immigrants came over in the 1850s, 1860s, and they would build these huge brick German Catholic churches," Hagen says. "And they'd have Friday night fish fries."

Lake Superior and Lake Michigan provided plenty of lake perch and trout—so much, in fact, that up until the 1950s, the fish at a fish fry was free.

"You just paid for beer," Hagen says.

SEE REID, Page 4



BOB FILA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

FRIED LAKE PERCH, a staple at a fish fry, hangs from a stringer.

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Maple cream candy

BY SYLVIA CARTER

NEWSDAY

It is nearly impossible to think of a candy more extravagant than this one, given the high price of maple sugar. It is slightly adapted from "The Best of Shaker Cooking" by Amy Bess Miller and Persis Miller.

MAPLE CREAMS

3 cups maple sugar
1 cup heavy cream
1/8 teaspoon salt
Butter
1 cup chopped hazelnuts or walnuts

1. Stir together sugar, cream and cook over medium-low heat until a soft ball is formed when tested in cold water, or reaches 240 degrees on a candy thermometer. Watch carefully to make sure the pot does not boil over, but do not stir.

2. Remove from heat and beat with whisk until candy is thick and loses its sheen, 1 to 2 minutes.

3. Butter an 8-by-12-inch (brownie) pan, sprinkle with the nuts, and pour maple cream over nuts, spreading out with the back of an oiled metal spoon.

4. When cool, score candy into squares, then cut when cold. Makes about 18 to 24 pieces. Store in an airtight container, with waxed paper between layers.

The perfect St. Patrick's Day festive crockpot feast

BY ELAINE MAGEE

KNIGHT RIDDER/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

With a last name like "Magee" you know I've got to have a couple of killer Irish recipes from my recipe doctor sleeve. I'm about to share one of my favorites with you, in honor of St. Patrick's Day. What I love about this recipe — which I just literally threw it together one fine St. Patrick's Day morning many years ago — is that it involves just four easy ingredients: corned beef with its seasoning packet, a few potatoes, a small head of cabbage and — get this — a bottle of non-alcoholic beer.

literally dump the corned beef, seasonings from packet and potatoes into the crockpot and pour that bottle of beer over the top. Set it on LOW and cook 8 hours or so. An hour before you want to serve it you add the shredded cabbage on top of the potatoes, cook it one more hour and you are ready to celebrate.

The one thing I do to make this dish more healthful is that I trim all visible fat from the corned beef brisket. What's left is the mostly protein, flavorful portion of the corned beef without the fat. And since we don't have any visible fat on the brisket, there is practically no fat melting into the broth — so you can happily enjoy a big spoonful of broth poured over your portion of the

corned beef, potatoes, and cabbage. Even my 9 year old daughter totally loves this dish, then again, she has an Irish last name too.

CROCKPOT CORNED BEEF, POTATOES AND CABBAGE (AND A BOTTLE OF O'DOULS)

2.5 pound boneless corned beef brisket (approximately) with seasoning packet

3 large potatoes (cut each potato into 8 pieces or chunks)

1 bottle or can (12 oz) of non-alcoholic beer

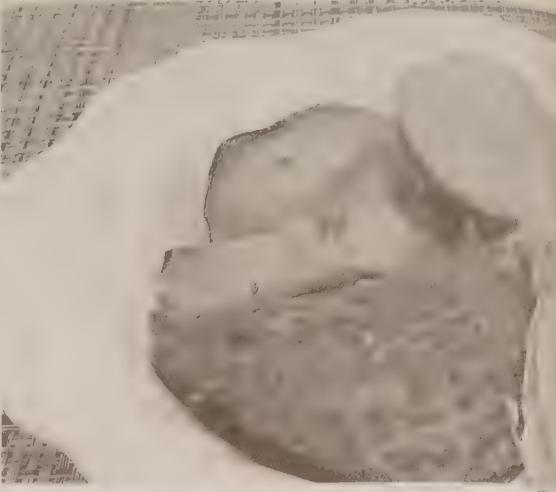
1 small head of cabbage, shredded or cut into 1/3-inch slices

■ Trim brisket of all visible fat and remove seasoning packet from brisket package.

■ Set brisket in bottom of slow cooker and sprinkle the seasonings from packet evenly over the top.

■ Spread potatoes evenly over the top of the brisket and pour the bottle of beer over the top of the potatoes. Cover the slow cooker, set it to LOW and let cook about 7 hours. After about 4-5 hours you can spoon some of the broth in the bottom of the slow cooker over the potatoes if desired.

■ About an hour before you are serving the dish (or after the 7 hours of cooking on LOW), place the shredded cabbage over the top of the



THIS RECIPE involves just four easy ingredients: corned beef with its seasoning packet, potatoes, a small head of cabbage and — get this — a bottle of non-alcoholic beer.

potatoes, cover again, and let cook another hour or so or until cabbage is just tender.

■ I like to serve this dish in individual soup dishes — with each serving getting a nice chunk of the corned beef, plenty of potatoes and cabbage and a big spoonful of broth poured over the top.

Makes 4 large servings.

Elaine Magee is author of "The Recipe Doctor Cookbook" and "Tell Me What to Eat If I Have Acid Reflux."

Elaine's new book, "The Flax Cookbook," is now available in book stores and amazon.com

Readers may write to her Web site at www.recipedoctor.com. Sponsors cannot be named.

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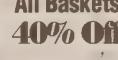
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Dinner tonight: Cheese tortellini with ham and peas

Pasta is a long-time family favorite

BY KRISTIN EDDY
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Pasta for dinner is an easy sell for the whole family, and this creamy dish will have them coming back for seconds. The peas and parsley give the white sauce needed color, but feel free to add more with multicolored tortellini.

This is also an ideal recipe for using up leftover ham, poultry, sausage or bacon.

Menu: Cheese tortellini with ham and peas, tossed spinach salad, lemon ice, Pinot grigio.

Time-saving tips: Purchase a commercial sauce, such as alfredo, instead of making sauce from scratch.

CHEESE TORTELLINI WITH HAM AND PEAS

2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 shallots, chopped
1-1/2 tablespoons flour
2 cups skim milk, whole milk or half-and-half
1 package (10 ounces) frozen peas

3/4 pound cooked ham, cubed
3/4 cup grated Parmesan

cheese
1/2 cup chopped parsley
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
3 packages (9 ounces each) cheese tortellini

■ Heat water to boiling in large pot over medium heat. Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add shallots to saucepan; cook 1 minute. Stir in flour; cook, stirring, 1 minute. Add milk; cook, stirring, until mixture is slightly reduced and thickened, about 10 minutes. Add peas; cook an additional 2 minutes. Stir in ham, Parmesan, parsley, salt and red pepper flakes. Turn heat off under pan.

■ Meanwhile, cook tortellini according to package directions in boiling water. Drain, reserving 1/2 cup of the cooking water. Return tortellini to pot. Pour sauce over, stirring to coat evenly. Stir in pasta water to achieve desired consistency.

Divide tortellini among bowls. Preparation time: 25 minutes, cooking time: 12 minutes, makes 6 servings

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Fish

FROM PAGE 1

And why has the fish always been deep-fried? "In Wisconsin they deep-fry anything," Hagen says. "If you drop your keys on the bar, you look around, and you'll find they've been deep-fried."

Cod became more popular on menus after World War II because refrigerated trucks made it easier to transport ocean fish, and Midwesterners were sick of lake perch.

Bennett Hagen, 84, a Wisconsin native (and no relation to Jeff), opened Hagen's Fish Market on Chicago's Northwest Side in 1946 with his brother, Donald. He casts a wider net on the fish fry's origins.

He credits Catholics, but he also reaches overseas to England and its fish and chips: When World War II servicemen returned, he recalls, they brought with them a craving for the crispy battered fish. The fact that military-oriented VFW and American Legion Halls became a leading source for community fish fries—the Summit VFW Hall's fish fry, one of the oldest in the Chicago area, began in 1951—adds credence to Hagen's theory.

Home-cooked fish fry

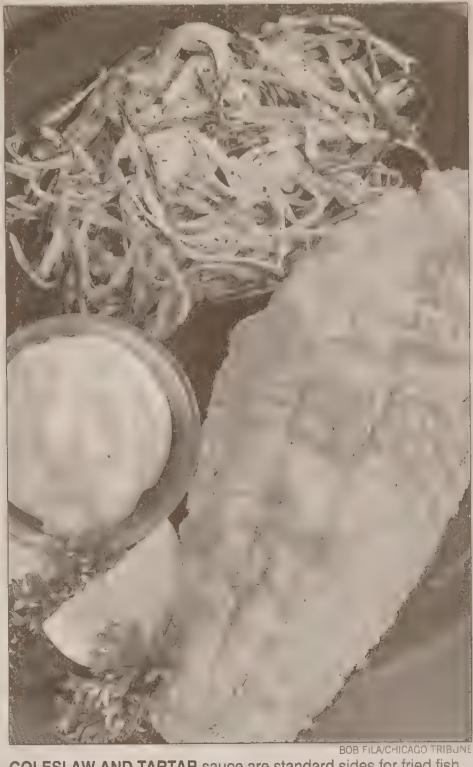
Many of the folks at the VFW fish fries attribute their success to home cooks who don't like to deep-fry (too messy) or cook fish (too smelly). But plenty of cooks haven't sworn off deep-frying.

"We always have people coming in for deep-fried recipes," says Cindy Silvestri, culinary director at Burhop's Seafood in Glenview and Hinsdale. "Deep-frying is fast, and it's easy."

Granted, it is messy: Greasy spatters will have to be cleaned off the stove, and then there's that pan of oil to deal with. As for the scent, the kind of fish you buy plays a role in whether you're sniffing an odor or an aroma.

"In any preparation of cooking with fish, it has to be a good-quality product to start with," Silvestri says. "When you take it out of your fridge, and if you smell a strong fish odor, that's an old piece of fish. It should smell fresh, like the sea, not 'fishy'."

Firm-fleshed fish can withstand



COLESLOAW AND TARTAR sauce are standard sides for fried fish.

the rigors of deep-frying, and mild-tasting species seem most popular in the Midwest. Two big sellers at Hagen's on Friday nights are Alaskan pollack and lake perch.

The pollack is frozen, and costs \$3.50 to \$4 per pound at Hagen's; fresh lake perch, an increasingly rare commodity, has jumped in price to about \$11 per pound. Silvestri of Burhop's also recommends cod (\$13 per pound) and catfish (\$8 per pound).

Both Johnson and Silvestri suggest that cooks try tilapia, even if they are intimidated by the exotic name.

"Fresh tilapia is absolutely delicious," says Scott Johnson, Bennett Hagen's grandson-in-law and president of Hagen's Fish Market. "It comes skinless, and boneless,

and is very mild, which is exactly what Midwesterners want."

Tilapia, about \$7 per pound (yielding two good-sized fillets), is caught in the Gulf of Mexico, but also is farm-raised in many locations, which underscores another asset: "It comes in fresh," Johnson says. "If you can get fresh fish over frozen fish, you're going to preserve the flavor and integrity of the fish."

But if it's Friday, you can always let someone else do all of the cooking. That's what the

Summit VFW's Lesmeister recommends, and not just because it's good for business.

"I don't cook fish at home," Lesmeister says. "My wife doesn't like fish that much."

Just be forewarned: Weekly fish fries can become habit-forming.

In Joliet, long-timer Red Annis was asked how many years he'd been coming to the fish fry.

Annis dolefully considered this for a moment, then answered with a question: "When was grass invented?"

Recipes

This peppery coleslaw is a popular side dish at many Midwestern fish fries, Judith M. Fertig writes in "Prairie Home Cooking."

"It's made with an old-fashioned boiled dressing that binds all the ingredients together well and keeps the salad from becoming soggy."

APPLE-CARROT COLESLOAW

Dressing:
1 egg yolk
2 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons flour
1 teaspoon dry mustard
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper

1/4 cup each: cider vinegar, whipping cream

1 tablespoon poppy seeds or celery seeds

2 teaspoons finely grated horseradish

Slaw:

1 small head green cabbage, cored, shredded

1 small head red cabbage, cored, shredded

1/2 red onion, thinly sliced

1 large Granny Smith apple, cored, finely chopped

1 carrot, peeled, shredded

1. For dressing, heat water in the bottom pan of a double boiler to a gentle simmer. Combine egg yolk, sugar, flour, mustard, salt and red pepper in the top part of the double boiler off the heat; stir to blend.

Whisk in the vinegar until there are no lumps. Place top part of double boiler over simmering wa-

ter. Cook, stirring, 1 minute.

Whisk in the cream; cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture thickens, about 3-4 minutes more. Remove from the heat; let cool to room temperature. Stir in the poppy seeds and horseradish; set aside.

2. For slaw, toss together cabbage, onion, apple and carrot in a large bowl. Pour dressing over; toss to coat well.

Preparation time: 10 minutes, cooking time: 5 minutes, makes 10 servings.

Adapted from a recipe from Cindy Silvestri of Burhop's Seafood in Glenview and Hinsdale, Ill. Any firm-fleshed fish, such as cod, tilapia, lake or ocean perch, will work here.

CATFISH WITH CORNMEAL BREADING

1 cup flour
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1/4 cup milk
1teaspoon salt
1 cup yellow cornmeal
1-1/2 teaspoons celery salt
1/2 teaspoon paprika
1/4 teaspoon each: freshly ground pepper, dry mustard
3 pounds catfish fillets or steaks
Vegetable or peanut oil for frying

Lemon wedges, tartar sauce
1. Put flour in shallow dish. Combine eggs, milk and salt in another shallow dish. Combine cornmeal, celery salt, paprika, pepper and mustard in third shal-

low dish.

2. Lightly coat fish in milk-egg wash. Coat with cornmeal mixture. Put dredged fish on a paper towel on a baking sheet. Refrigerate 30 minutes.

3. Heat oil to 375 degrees in heavy, deep pan; heat to 375 degrees. Batches to oil.

Lower heat to 350 degrees; cook 3-4 minutes, turn fish over, until coating is golden brown.

Remove fish; drain on paper towels or a wire rack on a baking sheet. Keep warm. Serve with tartar sauce.

Preparation time: 10 minutes, chilling time: 30 minutes, cooking time: 3 minutes per batch, 6 servings.

This tartar sauce adapts from "The Fearless Frying Cook" by John Martin Taylor, made mayonnaise.

We've streamlined mayonnaise to reduce the calories and fat by using low-fat mayonnaise.

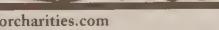
1-1/2 cups mayonnaise
1 tab. lemon juice
chopped, sweet onion

1 tablespoon minced chervil, parsley or dill
Combine all ingredients well.

Preparation time: 5 minutes, makes 1-1/2 cups.

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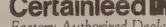
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A marvelous and easy new appetizer

Bite into baby artichokes

BY ELIZABETH PIVONKA, PH.D., R.D.
NAPSI

Discovering a wonderful new appetizer can be like striking gold. Baby artichokes, new and hot on menus and party tables all over the country, are the basis of this very easy recipe that you can put together in less than 20 minutes.

Baby artichokes are simple to prepare. After just a little trimming, they are completely edible and ready for quick cooking. This splendid appetizer features halved sautéed baby artichokes with a savory fat-free cream cheese and roasted red pepper blend.

The combination tastes rich, but won't break anyone's calorie bank. Set them out for a special dinner or party. If you've more than six to eight guests, better make a double batch—the food will disappear fast.

Baby artichokes come small—ranging from walnut- to egg-sized—because they grow farther down on the artichoke plant, in the shade of the large frond-like leaves. You'll find baby artichokes in stores now in plastic bags or in handy trays. Ocean Mist Farms' new packaging has easy preparation instructions and a recipe.

Baby artichokes, like their larger cousins, are low in calories, have no cholesterol or fat, and are low in sodium. Artichokes are nutrient-dense, so, for the 25 calories in two baby artichokes, you're getting 16

essential nutrients! Artichokes provide 6 percent of the Recommended Daily Value of phosphorus, 10 percent of magnesium, eight percent of manganese, 10 percent of chromium, five percent of potassium, four percent of iron and two percent of calcium. In addition to all these important minerals, artichokes, as a part of a low-fat, high-fiber diet, can help reduce the risk of certain types of heart disease, cancers and birth defects.

Choosing one or more servings of fruits and vegetables every day from each of the five color groups—blue/purple, green, white, yellow/orange, is an easy way to get the health benefits eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables provides. Go "green" with baby artichokes.

For more information on Ocean Mist Farms baby artichokes, visit www.oceanmist.com. For information about 5 A Day The Color Way go to www.5aday.com and www.aboutproduce.com.

BABY ARTICHOKE WITH ROASTED RED PEPPER CREAM CHEESE

12 Ocean Mist Farms baby artichokes
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 container (12 1/2 ounces) fat-free cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup drained roasted red peppers or drained oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes
2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil or 1 teaspoon dried basil

leaves, crushed
1/4 teaspoon salt or seasoned salt optional
Pepper

Fresh basil leaves, for garnish
Rinse baby artichokes and cook in enough boiling water to cover until just barely tender, about 3 to 5 minutes, depending on size of artichokes. Drain well. Trim stems and cut off top tips, using sharp knife or kitchen shears. Cut in half lengthwise.

In large skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil. Add garlic and baby artichoke halves. Cook, turning occasionally, until artichokes begin to brown at edges. Lift out of skillet and drain on paper towels. Arrange on serving platter, cut side up.

In blender or food processor, blend cream cheese and red peppers or sun-dried tomatoes, basil, salt and pepper until smooth. Spoon a rounded teaspoonful onto each baby artichoke half. Garnish with small sprigs of fresh basil.

Makes 24 appetizers.

Elizabeth Pivonka, Ph.D., R.D., is



DISCOVERING A WONDERFUL new appetizer can be like striking gold. Baby artichokes, new and hot on menus and party tables all over the country, are the basis of this very easy recipe that you can put together in less than 20 minutes.



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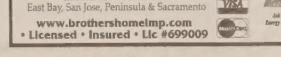
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are a few of the many great comments expressed from residents asked about their home at Park. example of a retirement community that values their residents' only are the traditional services provided, but there are opportunities for recreational, educational, and spiritual growth. Residents' ages range from 62 to 95 years of age with a vast diversity of

interests, backgrounds and talents. A variety of programs, ranging from water aerobics in the pool, exercise rooms and classes, seminars on health, financial and business interests, to seminars on history, current events, and specialized focuses of interest. Byron Park also provides opportunities to work on projects to provide scholarships for young people and participate in several projects that benefit others in the community.

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Adventure in eating: Sunny, sweet potato cakes with Caribbean spices

BY MARK BITTMAN

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

I've long used mashed potatoes to hold fish cakes together, so I didn't think it would be too much of a stretch to make a crunchier, more colorful and more flavorful fish cake using Caribbean spices and sweet potatoes in place of white ones.

I was wrong. Sweet potatoes absorb so much water when boiled that my simple fish cakes became almost an exercise in pastry making, as I added flour and egg to encourage bonding.

Steaming chunks of potatoes were better, but still the mixture was more watery than I liked; I had to add so much flour that the mixture became doughy.

Baking the sweet potatoes changed everything. The texture of cooled sweet potatoes was creamy, dry and smooth.

When combined with cooked flaked fish and spices, the cakes held together well and fried nicely.

Using sweet potatoes means planning ahead a bit. The best tactic is to bake them one night, refrigerate them, and then make the cakes the following day.

The only other ingredient that could make a difference in texture is the fish. I tried salt cod in one version.

I liked the flavor more, but I didn't think it was worth the extra effort to soak the fish overnight. Other white fish, like hake, whiting, snapper and grouper, are good choices, too.

When using white potatoes, I bread or flour the outside of the cakes to promote browning. But because of the high sugar content

of sweet potatoes, cakes made from them brown so fast they must be cooked more slowly than usual to prevent burning. A few of mine caramelized at the edges.

The sugar also makes the cakes more prone to sticking to the pan. To prevent this, use a nonstick skillet coated with a good eighth of an inch of oil, keep the heat moderate, be gentle and turn only once.

SWEET POTATO FISH CAKES

2 medium sweet potatoes
1 pound cod fillets
Salt to taste
1 inch-long piece ginger root, peeled and cut into chunks
3 cloves garlic, peeled and mashed
1 large shallot, cut in chunks

1/2 cup chopped cilantro, more for garnish
1/2 teaspoon cayenne or chili powder
1/4 teaspoon ground allspice, or to taste
Olive or vegetable oil as needed
Lime wedges

Heat oven to 425 degrees. Pierce sweet potatoes several times with a knife, then place in foil-lined roasting pan.

Roast until potatoes are soft, an hour or longer. Cool.

Meanwhile, poach cod in salted water to cover until it begins to flake, about 10 minutes.

Drain well and cool.

Combine ginger, garlic, shallot, cilantro, cayenne, allspice and a

large pinch of salt in a small food processor and mince, or mince by hand.

Scoop flesh of sweet potatoes into a bowl. Discard skins. Add fish and spices and blend with your hands. Taste and adjust seasoning. Shape into four hamburger-size patties.

Place oil in a 12-inch skillet, preferably nonstick, and turn heat to medium.

Wait until oil is hot, then add one fish cake; it should sizzle. If it does not, wait another minute before adding others.

Cook cakes slowly, so that they brown thoroughly without burning.

Turn after 5 minutes and brown on other side. Serve hot, with lime wedges and more cilantro.

Makes 4 servings.



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GREEN!

Our Price!

7.99

Bushmill Irish Whiskey 1L
Reg. 25.99
Save \$7

ClubBev!

18.99

Bushmill Nipozzano
Chianti Rufina RSV
Compare at 19.99

ClubBev!

17.99

Jameson Irish Whiskey
Reg. 19.99
Albertson's 24.99

ClubBev!

9.99

Guinness Draught 12pk
Reg. 12.99
Save \$3

ClubBev!

9.99

Harp Lager 12pk
Reg. 12.99
Save \$3



Danville
155 Diablo Rd.
By the Clock Tower
(925) 820-5050



Orinda
6 Camino Pablo
near the Orinda Theater
(925) 254-3161

Store Hours: Mon - Fri 10-9, Sat 9-9, Sun 10-7

*Walnut Creek: Mon - Sun 9-9

FRESCOBALDI Italian Wine

O, Madonna! (Oh, my goodness!) Have we got a deal for you! Our team has

entered a treasure trove of wines from Marchesi de Frescobaldi, one of Italy's

producers. Superb wines at bargain basement prices. Great value for

the money. See our display in the wine aisle.

Compania

Frescobaldi Remote Toscana

Soft ripe, endearing, a beautiful Sangiovese/Cabernet. At

the price, buy everything else in a \$100 range!

Frescobaldi Chianti Riserva

Chianti Riserva under \$10.00! Impossible! Not with

our buyers! The Nipozzano is simply superb and our \$7.99

price tag is nearly obscene!

Frescobaldi Pomino Rosso

Silk and lace can be found in this elegant and lovely blend

of Pinot Noir and Sangiovese. At \$9.99, this bargain is

beyond compare.

Frescobaldi Lambrusco Merlot

High and California Merlot Not Overpriced Pomerol Merlot

a better wine, yet! The unbelieveable Lambrusco at \$19.99 is a rare

opportunity, indeed. Treat yourself to a first-class Merlot!

Frescobaldi Castelriggio Brunello Ris.

& Riserva from a superb property. The high-class

Castelriggio at our taking price of \$49.99 is a treat for

both the ultra-premium wine lover and the pocketbook.

Don't wait!

Limited to stock on hand.

Save to 60%

Save to 60%